

# THE TIMES

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**TOMORROW: 12-PAGE PULLOUT - WHAT THE BUDGET MEANS FOR YOU**

Police bail for 17-year-old daughter

## Aitken is to offer himself for arrest

By Andrew Pierce  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

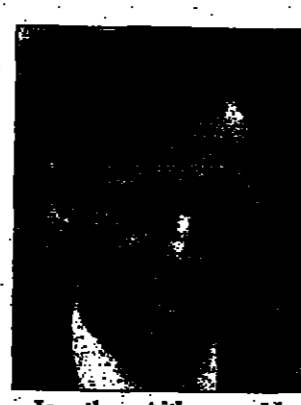
JONATHAN AITKEN will offer himself for arrest today over allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice arising from the collapse of his libel case last year. His teenage daughter and a Saudi business associate were arrested yesterday and police are expected to question his wife within the next few days.

The 55-year-old former Cabinet minister will go to the police knowing that he faces the prospect of a showpiece trial that could end in jail. Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment; perjury can lead to seven years in jail.

Detectives will question Mr Aitken over allegations that he lied on oath during his libel action against *The Guardian*, which collapsed spectacularly nine months ago. After the trial the newspaper placed its evidence in the hands of Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions. Since then, the police have been conducting an investigation spanning London, Paris and the Middle East.

Yesterday they interviewed Mr Aitken's daughter, Victoria, for two hours during which she was arrested and bailed pending further inquiries. Miss Aitken, an A-level student, was accompanied by her aunt, the actress Maria Aitken, as she left her father's house in Lord North Street near the Palace of Westminster, to go to a central London police station.

Scotland Yard later issued a statement saying: "A 17-year-old female voluntarily attended a London police station with her solicitor by prior arrangement and was arrested. The woman is being interviewed by police in con-



Jonathan Aitken could risk going to jail

nection with allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice."

Miss Aitken's godfather, Said Ayas, a principal aide to the Saudi royal family who is a close friend and business associate of Mr Aitken, was also arrested yesterday.

Mr Ayas was a central figure in the libel case. He had been at the Paris *Figaro* hotel with Mr Aitken, who was then Minister for Defence Procurement, in September 1993. *The Guardian* alleged that Mr Ayas paid Mr Aitken's £1,000 hotel bill, which would have been against the rules on hospitality for government ministers.

Mr Aitken claimed that his wife, Lolita, had settled the debt. But documents produced for the High Court case proved that Mrs Aitken had been in Geneva at the time and could not, therefore, have paid the account.

The discrepancy triggered the collapse of the case and left Mr Aitken's life in ruins. As a multimillionaire, the £1,000 bill would have meant little to him, but it cost him his career. His marriage, his reputation and an estimated £2 million in legal fees. He had resigned his job as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, which he had coveted for 20 years, in order to pursue his legal campaign armed with the "sword of

truth" and the "shield of fair play".

Both Mrs Aitken and her daughter had signed statements into court and were due to give evidence in the trial. But the discrepancies over the hotel bill forced Mr Aitken to abandon the case — and his wife promptly announced that they were separating.

Mr Aitken's expected arrest today will be yet another in a long string of humiliations for a man who once believed the leadership of the Conservative Party was within his grasp. When the libel case collapsed in June, he became the first person in more than 20 years to resign from the Privy Council, and he lost his Thanet South seat at the general election after more than 23 years in Parliament.

He has recently been acting as a consultant to GEC Marconi, advising on an unspecified contract in Saudi Arabia, but there were question marks over that last night.

Mr Aitken himself declined to comment on the latest turn of events, but friends rallied to his defence. One said: "It is time to move on. The fight between Aitken and *The Guardian* was a political one. It is appalling that the authorities are targeting his family. He has lost his fortune, his wife, and his reputation. He is dead in the water. There is nothing to be gained by dragging him through the courts."

Mr Aitken is a complicated and colourful character with a wide knowledge of religion, political philosophy, and international relations. He has brought together, dons, editors, statesmen, philosophers, and the occasional Arab prince to talk about the great issues of the day. Guests have included Richard Nixon, whose biography he wrote, Margaret Thatcher, Henry Kissinger, Enoch Powell and Raine Spencer.

But Baroness Thatcher, who was strongly at one with Mr



Victoria Aitken leaves her father's London home with her aunt, the actress Maria Aitken

Aitken on his sceptical views on Europe, never trusted him enough to give him a ministerial job. John Major was not so cautious and regretted it ever after. Friends concede that Mr Aitken has a fatal flaw in his character: to rush into areas of business and politics

which others avoid like the plague. During his 18 years on the backbenches Mr Aitken, a self-made millionaire, had set about creating his fortune. But his pursuit of wealth in the Middle East ultimately led to *The Guardian's* allegations

that he was financially dependent on the Saudis, that he pimped for them and was involved in secret arms deals. He protested that all the allegations were false and launched into the libel case that brought about his downfall.

## Cook bows to Israelis in row over visit to settlement

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL BINYON IN AMMAN

THE British Government last night gave in to Israeli pressure and agreed that Robin Cook would today visit the disputed settlement of Har Homa in east Jerusalem with an Israeli rather than a Palestinian escort.

The Foreign Secretary had earlier failed to satisfy Israel with an offer to drop his original plan to meet Faisal al-Husseini, the chief PLO representative in Jerusalem, at the site.

Israel had threatened to wreck the European Union's new attempt to play a leading role as a Middle East peacemaker if Mr Cook refused to recognise Israel's claim to sovereignty over the site, on land annexed by Israel soon after its seizure from Jordan in the 1967 war. The land is also claimed by the PLO.

"The British minister has basically given in and apparently recognised Israel's sovereignty over the area, although that is still disputed in international law," a European diplomat said.

However, this was denied by the Foreign Secretary last night. Mr Cook said that he had no objection to Israeli officials accompanying him to Har Homa. He said they would be "explaining their point of view to me, as I will explain our side to Mr [Binyamin] Netanyahu [the Prime Minister] in the evening".

The Foreign Secretary said the presence of Israeli officials would in no way imply recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Har Homa, and the occupied territories. "It would be very helpful if Israel would refrain from the expansion of settlements," he said.

Earlier, Israeli officials had

given a warning that they would not be able to ensure security if Mr Cook did not go with an Israeli escort to the settlement, which will eventually house 32,000 Jews. Israel insists that the settlement is simply a housing development because the area is under its municipal control.

Anti-British slogans daubed on the walls of the British consulate in west Jerusalem had raised fears about Mr Cook's visit, which has infuriated Israel's far right. One of the slogans accused the Foreign Secretary of being anti-Semitic.

Two right-wing groups had said they would protest against his visit to Har Homa. It was not clear last night whether the protest would still go ahead.

Announcing the deal, David Bar-Ilan, communications adviser to Mr Netanyahu, said: "Mr Cook is going to visit, now, accompanied by Israeli officials, probably by a representative of the Government and a representative of the Jerusalem municipality."

The diplomatic fudge helped to end a dispute which had threatened to overshadow Mr Cook's trip in Britain's new role as head of the revolving EU presidency.

At a briefing for British correspondents earlier, a senior Israeli official made clear that Mr Cook's offer to go to Har Homa without Mr al-Husseini was not sufficient.

The official added: "I am still puzzled why the Foreign Secretary of Great Britain on his first visit to the country finds it necessary to have the first act in Jerusalem be a visit to Har Homa."

Leading article, page 19

### Weather dashes England hopes

Michael Atherton's dream of a series win in the Caribbean was dashed in the cruellest fashion yesterday when the fifth Test match against West Indies was abandoned because of rain. England need to win the final Test, starting on Friday, to avoid defeat in the series. Page 52

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## Maze man died in savage beating

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE man found dead in his cell at Northern Ireland's Maze prison on Sunday had been savagely beaten and strangled, it was disclosed yesterday. Sources said David Keys's wrists were slashed before he was strung up by the neck with a sheet.

Keys was one of four former soldiers charged with the murders of lifelong friends Philip Allen and Damien Trainor in the County Armagh village of Poyntpass two weeks ago. An inmate from the Loyalist Volunteer Force wing of H-block 6 was arrested in connection with the death yesterday. Another prisoner is being questioned.

A security official said last night: "Even by the standards of these people it was an

appalling killing. They are psychopaths." Another security official said Keys had also been sexually abused.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said she was "disgusted and shocked" but rejected Unionist and Conservative demands for a full public inquiry and the resignations of those in charge following this latest security lapse.

The most likely explanation for Keys's death is that colleagues believed he had broken under questioning. Yet Keys chose to go to the LVF wing in H-block 6 after being remanded in custody last week. Sinn Fein alleged the 26-year-old Belfast man was an RUC informant. Others suggested old scores were being

settled. Keys had a record of drug dealing and criminality after leaving the Royal Irish Regiment, and left Belfast to live a few miles from Poyntpass, after being shot and wounded by the UVF in November last year.

Yet another theory was that Keys was killed for botching the Poyntpass operation. Trainor was a Roman Catholic, but Allen and two others injured when two loyalist gunmen sprayed the village's Railway Bar were Protestants.

Whatever the reason, Keys's death was another major embarrassment for the Government after December's escape of an IRA murderer and the killing in the prison of Billy Wright, the LVF leader, by republican inmates.

Keys was a remand prisoner in a wing full of convicted terrorists. He had no protection because the inmates run their own wings, the cell doors are not locked and prison officers enter twice a day.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, insisted that "heads must roll" for the murder. But Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland's Security Minister, argued that the Maze, which holds 500 hardcore terrorists, was a uniquely difficult prison to run. The authorities had to cooperate with the inmates or face anarchy within and trouble on the streets outside, he said.

Leading article, page 19



"Keith's got this hunch goldfish will go up in the Budget"

**People's grilling**

Gordon Brown and Tony Blair will appear together at a London school on Thursday for a public question-and-answer session about the contents and impact of today's Budget. Page 2

## Childcare guru Benjamin Spock dies at 94

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BENJAMIN SPOCK, the best-known baby doctor in the Western world, has died, apparently impoverished. He was 94.

A man of giant physical stature, Dr Spock was the author of several seminal books on child-rearing, none more so than *Baby and Child Care*, his first, published in 1946; which sold 50 million copies. Only the Bible has sold more copies this century.

In the book, Dr Spock gave this advice to parents, quite revolutionary for its time: "Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do." Reacting against the cold, rigid theories of child-rearing prevalent at the time of its publication, Dr Spock went on to mould the attitudes of generations of parents and children, earning the status of a worldwide guru.

Inevitably he made enemies, especially after lending his name to anti-Vietnam protests and his support to con-

scientists who sought to dodge the draft. In a famous exchange with Spiro Agnew, the Vice-President, who accused him of leading America's young astray, Dr Spock said: "Well, at least nobody could accuse me of having brought up Spiro Agnew."

The doctor, like many public figures, claimed always to have been misunderstood. To the end, he rejected as inaccurate the descriptions of him as "permissive".

Dr Spock's last days were tinged with despair as he and

his second wife, Mary Morgan, 55, ran out of money. A faddish and expensive care regime for the nonagenarian doctor — involving a macrobiotic chef, a psychoanalyst, a shiatsu masseur and a yoga specialist, all costing nearly \$20,000 (£12,000) a month — had drained the family coffers. So desperate was their plight that his wife made a public appeal for help.

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# And lo, there came a message from the spirit zone

Perhaps unfairly, Peter Mandelson is not famous for either his candour or his spirituality, but yesterday the Minister Without Portfolio was in a mood to be theologically bold. The millennium, he announced to MPs, "is a hugely significant moment in the Christian calendar".

Hugely significant! One can picture the inscription on the Three Kings' birthday card: "Congratulations on this hugely significant moment in the Christian calendar."

"And I'd like to pay tribute to..." MPs' jaws dropped. Were we now to add piety to

Mr Mandelson's qualities? Would he bow the knee before that Galilean spin-doctor who made straight the way for New Labour two thousand years before us?

... to pay tribute to the work of the churches..." continued Mandelson, bathetically. He was only talking about plans for the interior of the Millennium Dome. He was sure, he said, that the Christian element in this 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ would "be properly represented in the Spirit Zone".

Something chills the spine when Peter Mandelson men-



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

tions the Spirit Zone. He makes it sound more a piece of rattling chains and howling banshees than of heavenly choirs. As if in tune with the Mandelsonian plan for the Spirit Zone, Ben Bradshaw (Lab, Exeter) had turned up with his shock of brown hair standing completely on end. Either Mr Bradshaw is an amateur electrician who had just stripped a live wire with his teeth, or he had seen one of the ghosts in Peter Mandelson's Spirit Zone.

Next into the Spirit Zone was Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab, Crewe & Nantwich) who was "very disturbed" (she said) that, according to a Gallup Poll, "a large number of the public do not associate the Millennium with the death... er, the birth of Christ." A hearty, combative woman, she was commonsense before it was fashion-

able in the Labour Party to be commonsense one of that brave, rude little crew who got there before Tony Blair and are consequently deleted from the Authorized Version of the New Labour Miracles. She works hard on the backbenches: always there, always an independent voice. But I had never, before yesterday, seen Mrs Dunwoody as a devotional figure. This, then, is an unexpected recruit to the Spirit Zone.

Norman Baker (Lib-Dem, Lewes) made a late bid, not for the Spirit Zone, but for what he called "the Atmosphere Zone". This mystified other

MPs. Had Mr Baker made this zone up? His purpose in mentioning it was to demand that greenhouse gases should be avoided in the ventilation of the Dome. Baker boxes for Lewes in the way Kelly Holmes runs for England: with total energy and commitment. He is one of those people you meet on buses: insistent and full of information. The MP mentioned a certain gas he knew which was "a thousand times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub>".

Will there be a Boredom Zone at Greenwich? With Peter Mandelson rattling

chains and Gwyneth Dunwoody on the harp in the Spirit Zone, Norman Baker could preside over the Boredom Zone, asking interminable questions as visitors ran screaming for the exits.

And why is my Parliamentary Question on this matter, tabled on 10 February, still unanswered by the Rt Hon Gentleman?

Norman Baker is the second most boring man in the House of Commons. I cannot actually think of anyone more boring, but refuse to award Baker first prize — lest I cheat my own purpose by lending him distinction.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Edinburgh tipped for temporary parliament

Edinburgh re-emerged yesterday as the favourite to provide a temporary home for the Scottish parliament when it meets for the first time next year (Shirley English writes).

The all-party consultative steering group supported the city's bid over Glasgow, saying that the new parliament needed to "put down roots" in the city where it will eventually be permanently based.

The need for a temporary home arose because the new parliament building planned for Holyrood in Edinburgh will not be built in time for the first session. A decision on the temporary site could be made as early as this week.

Yesterday, Henry McLeish, Scottish Home Affairs Minister, said that most of the 13-strong consultative steering group had agreed that the parliament should meet in the capital.

### Commute by boat

John Prescott said that subsidised commuter boat services could help turn the Thames into an important route for commuters. The Secretary for Environment, Transport and the Regions said that a fleet of riverboats to be built to take people to the Millennium Dome in Greenwich should become a part of London's public transport system, linking with bus, train and Underground services.

### Irvine open day

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will open his newly refurbished official apartments at Westminster on Thursday, when he hosts a reception on behalf of Worldwidewatch, an international charity which campaigns against poverty and the sexual and political oppression of women in the Third World. Guests will include Cherie Booth, QC, and Baroness Kennedy, QC.

### Passport change

Passport controls on travellers leaving the country are to be scrapped, allowing about 185 immigration officers to be redeployed on more effective work, a Commons written reply, the Government said, that the operation, costing £3 million a year, had become an "expensive fiction" in curbing immigration. Airlines and ferry companies may instead be asked to provide lists of passengers.

### Lottery doubts

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has ordered BBC governors to explain the corporation's involvement with the new National Lottery scratchcard amid allegations that it has breached operating guidelines. Mr Smith asked them to examine the provisions of the BBC Charter amid concerns that it was inappropriate for the public broadcaster to become so involved in a commercial venture.

### Gully triumph

A British expedition claimed the first descent of Low's Gully in Borneo, where five soldiers nearly died during an Army training exercise in February 1994. The team of 31, including one from the 1994 expedition, faced floods, freezing nights and scorching days in the two weeks it took to cross a ten-mile stretch of cliffs, waterfalls and thick vegetation below Mount Kinabalu, known to locals as the Place of the Dead.

### Meacher calls for water firm assurance

THE Environment Minister Michael Meacher yesterday said he was seeking assurance from water companies that they were not reducing pressure in a bid to combat leakage.

His warning came after allegations by fire chiefs that water companies are hindering their ability to fight big blazes because of low pressure in the mains system. Their concerns will be discussed today in a meeting at the Department of the Environment, hosted by Mr Meacher and attended by the water companies, the Home Office and local government officials.

Martin Chapman, from the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association, denied exaggerating the problem and said he had received reports from around the country of significant changes in water levels.

Brian Duckworth, managing director of Severn Trent Water and chair of the Water Services Association, admitted reducing water pressure was used to limit leaks, but said the problem lay with the demands placed on the system by the fire brigade and not the other way round.

## Blunkett sets fee ceiling to stop revolt over tuition

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID BLUNKETT yesterday announced the first concession over the Government's plans to impose student tuition fees in an attempt to head off a damaging Labour revolt. But the Education Secretary came under attack from Labour MPs who argued that imposing fees would deter poorer families from sending children to university.

Mr Blunkett also made clear the Government intended to reverse the three defeats it suffered in the Lords on the Bill. He said that he would ensure extra safeguards were written into the Teaching and Higher Education Bill to prevent future big rises in fees, and called on the Tories to join him in pledging to cap any such increases. This year's fees will be set at £1,000.

Opening the Bill's Second Reading in the Commons, Mr Blunkett said that the Government would be tabling legislation to ensure fees would stay at the same proportion — 25 per cent of average university tuition costs.

The concessions come after concern that Labour, or any other future administration, could raise tuition fees by a huge amount once the principle of charging had been established. Mr Blunkett re-

jected Tory demands that there be a public inquiry if any increase was proposed. But he said he would consider asking the all-party Commons Select Committee on Education to report on any planned increase above 25 per cent. It would then be put to a vote before both Houses.

Opening the debate, Mr Blunkett admitted jokingly that the Bill had suffered in the Lords but said it was the Government's job to try to repair the damage. One of the most embarrassing defeats was over a proposal to retain grants for maintenance fees for the poorest students. But yesterday he argued that poorer students would not lose out. If their parents earned below a certain threshold, they would not have to pay. If they did have to contribute, they would be required to repay the loan only if they earned above a minimum salary.

Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, argued that she had gone to university only because she had a full grant. She insisted that her parents would never have let her go if she was faced with a debt of thousands of pounds.

David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, and Jeremy

Corbyn, MP for Islington North, also gave a warning that poorer students would be put off going to university. Mr Blunkett pointed out that there was no evidence of a reduction in the number of applicants for this year's student intake.

"We are not penalising the student at the point of entry, we are asking for a contribution at the point of reward," he said. But he added: "I don't pretend for a moment that these proposals, difficult as they are, can in any way overcome the inequality of income of background."

Stephen Dorrell, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, attacked the decision not to exempt English, Welsh and Northern Irish students in Scottish universities from their final year's fees if they were on four-year courses. He said: "The Government only faces these anomalies because it has bungled the central question of financing higher education."

Mr Dorrell said Labour was trying to reduce expenditure in higher education and increase student numbers. But he protested: "The Government's policy is to load the effect of that disproportionately on to low-income families."



Bakers in York showed yesterday how the Chancellor could have his cake and eat it

## Blair and Brown to face public Budget questions

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN and Tony Blair will join forces on Thursday for a public grilling about the contents and impact of today's Budget.

The Chancellor and the Prime Minister will take questions from around 250 people in a lengthy session at a London school after Mr Brown has delivered what Downing Street was hailing yesterday as one of the "big reforming Budgets".

Their joint appearance, along with lavish praise of Mr Brown by Mr Blair yesterday, is clearly designed to kill suggestions of any differences in their approach to the Budget. But although reports that Mr Blair made a late intervention to veto some of Mr Brown's proposals are wide of the mark, Downing Street went out of its way to emphasise his deep involvement in the planning of the Budget.

It was clear that he is keen

to present the package, which will herald the start of welfare reform as well as introducing a series of new Welfare to Work measures, as a key part of the Government's reforming agenda, rather than an old-style Labour package.

There was concern among Blair allies yesterday that the Budget was being presented in advance by the Brown team as a package for the poor at the expense of the middle classes.

In a noticeable shift of rhetoric the Prime Minister's official spokesman said the Budget would be a "significant event — setting the course for the next phase of the modernisation of Britain".

It would be a "very important part of the whole welfare reform package" and be about "making work pay".

Underlining Mr Blair's desire to keep on board the middle class voters who switched to Labour, the

spokesman said the Budget would be "New Labour from start to finish".

He added that Mr Blair and Mr Brown had "worked together closely" throughout the development of New Labour and now on this Budget. "Gordon is Chancellor and he presents the Budget. But on the big things they have always worked together. The Prime Minister believes Gordon Brown is doing a brilliant job and that he will be seen as one of the great radical reforming Chancellors."

Meanwhile the Chancellor took steps to enshrine in law the principle of iron discipline towards the public finances. The fiscal stability code, to be backed by law, will require governments to pay heed to the long-term needs of the economy and would in theory make pre-election spending sprees unlikely.

Peter Riddell, page 6

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## European firms shun union talks

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN employers refused yesterday to start negotiations with unions for a pact that would require works councils in all but the smallest companies.

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, denounced Unice, the employers' federation that includes the CBI, for obstructing Brussels' drive for laws on workers' "information and consultation".

Under the Maastricht treaty's social chapter, only big multinational companies are obliged to run workers' councils. "This is a serious setback for the social dialogue," M Santer said.

Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, said that the Commission would draft a law for submission to member states. Under Maastricht rules, the European Union seeks to promote new

## 150 Gulf veterans to have new tests

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ONE hundred and fifty randomly selected Gulf War veterans are to be given special neurological tests as part of a new government drive to discover the cause of the illnesses affecting hundreds who fought in the 1991 conflict.

Although there are already a number of long-term research programmes funded by the Government, none has focused on the possibility that the combination of vaccines or wide-scale organophosphate spraying or other possible causes might have damaged the nervous system.

Veterans criticised the previous Government for ignoring this area of research, especially after a study by Goran Janal at the Neurological Institute at Glasgow Southern General Hospital produced evidence of a link between organophosphate poisoning and brain dysfunction. Yesterday John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, said the new clinical tests would cost between £200,000 and £250,000 and would be carried out at King's College School of Medicine in London. It would take two years to complete.

MoD sources said that 75 Gulf War veterans who were suffering from illnesses and 75 who had not shown any symptoms would take part in the clinical tests to examine the interaction between the nervous system and muscles.

Although the announcement was welcomed by the veterans, a spokeswoman for the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association said it was already "160 lives" too late, a reference to former Gulf Servicemen the veterans claim have died. Tony Flint, its chairman, said two veterans a month were dying as a result of illnesses.

Lawyer  
father  
murderer  
love to ex  
body after  
coffin m  
Webber hat

# Straw backs Lawrence inquiry judge as hearing postponed

By STEWART TENDLER, RICHARD FORD AND LYN JENKINS

### Dead teenager's family to meet Home Secretary today over 'legitimate concerns' about racial insensitivity

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, gave his full backing yesterday to the former High Court judge chairing the Stephen Lawrence inquiry after allegations of "racial insensitivity" during his career on the bench.

Macpherson of Cluny to conduct the inquiry into the race murder of the black student with "fairness and sensitivity". Stephen Lawrence, aged 18, was stabbed to death in a race attack at a bus stop in Eltham, south London, in 1993.

Secretary urgently and discuss "legitimate concerns". Mr Straw has agreed to meet Doreen and Neville Lawrence today but officials are already indicating he has no intention of replacing Sir William, who was chosen seven months ago. The hearing was postponed until March 24.

He said the Lord Chancellor had recommended Sir William for the task and that the Home Office had concurred in his decision. "This man was sitting as a judge for many years. He sat as a judge who had the highest reputation."

Mr O'Brien said: "It is important I think that when judges do head inquiries that we do not place them in some sort of political box where they should be the subject of the sort of attacks that politicians are sometimes under. We need to be very wary as a society about doing that and I think judges need to be the subject of trust."

The adjournment followed a critical report in *The Observer* on Sir William's record in handling race and immigration cases. Yesterday inquiry officials said Sir William has written to the newspaper and has taken legal advice. He also issued a detailed reply.

In a statement at the start of the inquiry in south London Sir William said the newspaper had questioned his suitability to conduct the inquiry but said he "dismissed personal allegations with contempt".

# Stepfather accused of murdering girl, 9

A GIRL aged 9 taken from her bed in the middle of the night was killed by her stepfather who concealed the body in a bagged set and then halfheartedly joined in the search for her, a court was told yesterday.

Zoe Evans's remains were not found until six weeks after her disappearance in January, last year, despite Britain's biggest search for a missing child. But a T-shirt found the day after she vanished led police to her killer, Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday.

The T-shirt belonged to her stepfather Miles Evans, an army driver, and was found in a copse a few hundred yards from the family home in Warmminster, Wiltshire. It was stained with Zoe's blood as well as evidence of the last time Evans had made love to her mother, Paula.

The prosecution at Bristol Crown Court claim the T-shirt was dropped by Zoe's killer along with a pair of the little girl's knickers as he carried her body up Battisbury Hill before concealing it in the animal hole.

Nigel Pascoe, QC, for the prosecution, said that the T-shirt not only identified her killer but the time of her death. Rain had fallen for the first time that month in the early hours of the morning but the ground beneath the garment remained dry.

The shirt, emblazoned with the words No Fear, was one of six of similar design owned by the 24-year-old private in the Royal Army Logistical Corps. Written on the back were the

### Army driver 'put on a show of grief' after Zoe Evans vanished, reports Simon de Bruxelles

words: "It's not the pace of life that concerns me, it's the sudden stop at the end."

Mr Pascoe told the jury that Evans, who was known as Taff to everyone, regularly tickled and fought with the little girl but that when her younger brother tried to join he would ignore him.

Mr Pascoe said: "Miles Evans thought Zoe was, and I quote, 'a very pretty little girl' and he obviously engaged in physical contact with her."

"You are entitled to ask the question of whether behind this terrible murder there was abuse or attempted abuse. The jury may consider the physical horseplay hid a darker attraction for his stepdaughter than would be right."

Zoe was last seen by her mother, when she went to bed late on a Friday night after staying up to watch a film with her parents and seven-year-old stepbrother. Evans went to work early the next day while his 29-year-old wife stayed in bed suffering from period pains.

Mr Pascoe described how Evans who was in the mechanised transport section took a telephone call from a superior to discuss the following week's duties. When he finished he told a female NCO that it had been his wife on the phone and said: "Zoe is still in bed."

In reality, said Mr Pascoe, Evans was laying the ground for the lies that would follow when his wife found out Zoe was missing. She did not realise that Zoe was not at home until mid-morning but did not worry unduly at first. When Mrs Evans did call her husband to ask if he had seen Zoe he was back home within minutes despite there being no real cause for concern at that stage. He had even asked his wife to turn out to help to search for her.

Mr Pascoe said that Evans, who denies the killing, had already begun to "act out the role of anxious parent" but would eventually be caught out by his own lies. He told the jury: "The Crown say this man, her

stepfather Miles Evans, took her [Zoe] out of her home at night. He killed her at night and buried her at night, high on a deserted and overgrown hill about a kilometre from her family home.

"Then, when the child's mother eventually raised the alarm that morning, Miles Evans sought to pretend that he was an anxious parent. We say he was nothing of the sort. At all times, we say he was a killer seeking only to cover his tracks and to divert suspicion from himself."

The court heard that Evans, who married Zoe's mother in August 1996, was her second husband. Zoe was the product of a holiday fling and her half-brother the son of her first marriage to another soldier. Zoe was described as a happy and affectionate girl who on the day before her death had won a certificate of good behaviour from her school. She was looking forward to her birthday in two weeks time and had been promised a puppy and a party in a disco.

Her mother told the court that Zoe was a lovely little girl who was "as good as gold". The court heard that Zoe's body was found on February 24 having been dragged by animals from its hiding place. Her lower limbs had been badly chewed but a pathologist had established cause of death as asphyxia, most likely from having her vest stuffed into her mouth. She had also been hit hard in the face, breaking her nose and leaving the blood stains on the T-shirt worn by the killer.

The trial continues.



A mobile appeal that toured Warmminster after Zoe Evans's murder

# Nurse had sex with disturbed schoolboy

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOL nurse who formed a sexual relationship with a disturbed teenage boy she was counselling was removed from the national nursing register yesterday.

Rosamund Jill Moseley, 34, a doctor's wife and mother of three, admitted at a disciplinary hearing that she began having sex with the boy 11 months before he left school as a 16-year-old.

She was a nurse and counsellor at Mortimer Special School in Streatham, South London, when she started the affair in February, 1996. She took the boy, who had behavioural and learning difficulties, to a pub and often drove him home in her car.

His mother became suspicious and spoke to the head teacher, Marie Stern, who warned Mrs Moseley not to devote so much time to the boy at the expense of other children. Mrs Moseley was suspended by Lambeth NHS Trust and later dismissed after the mother complained in December 1996 that she had found the pair in bed.

Although the mother said that the affair began when her son was 14, a trust spokesman said yesterday that police had not been informed because there was no evidence that sex took place before he was 16.

Mrs Moseley told a hearing of the Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting that the boy was manipulative and that she continued the relationship because of his "bullying".

# I was set on fire for affair, says wife

By A CORRESPONDENT

A HUSBAND poured petrol over his wife and set her alight after saying her love affair was ruining his public image, a court heard yesterday.

Trevor Eames, 55, and his wife Ursula, 49, were both borough councillors. Mr Michael Garrett, prosecuting at Warwick Crown Court, said the couple's marriage had broken down and Mrs Eames had started an association with a council officer. She had spent a night at a hotel and come home next morning for clothes, when her husband confronted her and accused her of ruining his reputation.

Mrs Eames said: "He poured some liquid over my left side, on my face and coat. I heard a click of his cigarette lighter and I went up in flames." Mrs Eames said she ran into the garden to try to smother the flames, and her husband eventually extinguished them with water after repeated requests by a horrified neighbour.

Her husband denies causing her grievous bodily harm with intent. The case continues.

# Move to exhume body after claim of coffin mix-up

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

FOR more than a year, the family of Sheila Gent have laid flowers at what they thought was her final resting place in the church cemetery near their home in Norfolk.

Her widowed husband and son now face the trauma of seeing her grave in Christ Church cemetery, Pakenham, Norfolk, disturbed after claims that an undertaker buried the wrong body by mistake. The undertaker's assistant has alleged that a funeral parlour mix-up led to Mrs Gent, 58, being cremated the day after her funeral while another body was buried in her place.

Police in Thetford are in consultation with the coroner over whether to seek Home Office consent to exhume the body. The allegations were made by Pat Littlewood, formerly a secretary for the funeral director David Turner, when she appeared before magistrates last week charged with the theft of £5,314 from her former boss. Admitting six counts of theft, her lawyer cited the coffin mix-up as one of a number of "distressing business practices" which drove Littlewood, 33, to stealing.

Littlewood, who was given 100 hours' community service and ordered to pay £400 compensation, later said the mistake had occurred after two coffins were left by the door of the funeral parlour and Mr Turner took the wrong one to a burial service. Yesterday Maurice Gent said: "It has come as a great shock to hear my wife might not be buried where she is supposed to be. I still hope that she might be buried there but there is no way of knowing the truth unless the body is exhumed."

Mr Turner, 54, who has been a funeral director for 18 years, said he had no knowledge of any mix-up. He said the vicar at Mrs Gent's funeral service had spotted the wrong name plate on the coffin but he had been assured by Littlewood that only the name plates were the wrong way round. "I am supporting the police 100 per cent and I hope the Home Office give permission for the grave to be exhumed so this matter can be cleared up," he said.

# Soccer fan who felled linesman is jailed

By PAUL THOMPSON

A FOOTBALL fan who knocked out a linesman in a drunken attack at a Division One match was jailed yesterday for three months.

John Corker, 34, a Sheffield United fan, has been banned from attending matches in England and Wales for a year. Corker, from Eastbourne, was so drunk that he could not remember punching the official, Edward Martin, 38, at Portsmouth's ground on January 31.

Mr Martin, of Williton, Somerset, said yesterday that he hoped the sentence would deter hooligans. "Football violence must not be tolerated and it cannot be tolerated. Real fans come to watch not football, not to watch people like Mr Corker."

Corker, a butcher, felled Mr Martin with a single blow to the face after the linesman was involved in sending off the Sheffield United goalkeeper. He was sentenced at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court, where, at an earlier hearing, he had admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and entering the playing area.

# Lloyd-Webber battles long illness

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

LORD LLOYD-WEBBER has spent the past decade fighting a mystery illness but has carried on working, despite doctors' orders. He is to scale down his commitments but will continue to write musicals because they are his "lifeblood".

The composer, who will be 50 on Sunday, said that the problems had begun when he was working on *Aspects of Love* which opened in 1989. "Inexplicable flu-like symptoms would suddenly hit me. I got through *Sunset Boulevard* [1993] feeling about 80 per cent right. I had every allergy test and went without free, milk-free, wine-free (that was the worst) until a doctor

in New York found I had picked up an amoeba and put me on very strong drugs that knocked it out. The problem returned last September."

He had been too ill to go to the tenth anniversary party of *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway in January. But he said he was now working on his musical *Whistle Down the Wind* which opens in London this summer and a video project.

Lord Lloyd-Webber implied in an interview with *Radio Times* that he would spend less time on running his company, The Really Useful Group. "I think I'm going to have to lock myself away and just concentrate on writing — that's the way forward. People think of me as a businessman, which I'm not. Now that I've sorted out the Really Useful Group I'm going to have to cut back. My



Lloyd-Webber: working

doctor says I've got to cancel everything. But I can't do that."

A spokesman for Lord Lloyd-Webber said last night that medical tests last month had given him the all-clear but he had been instructed to take it easy. "He is not going to give up work. He is going to concentrate on composing. But the doctors have said to him that he must not rush around the world and take on extra work. He's not dying and he doesn't have AIDS and he doesn't have cancer — that is quite upsettingly wrong. It's not life-threatening."

Next Sunday BBC devotes *Songs of Praise* to his music, to mark his half-century. On April 7 there will be a celebration at the Albert Hall.

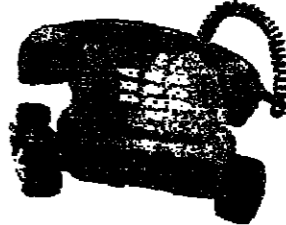
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# Banks says Newcastle must deny allegations

### Soccer club chairman faces growing pressure, reports Paul Wilkinson

TONY BANKS last night called on the chairman of Newcastle United Football Club and a colleague to deny tabloid newspaper reports of sexual high jinks and insulting comments about fans and players.

Mr Banks said: "I am looking for a very strong denial from the individuals concerned that the claims are not true. But if they are true, it is a very bad day for Newcastle."

Tony Blair, a Newcastle supporter, also expressed concern when he met Sir Jeremy Beecham, chairman of the Local Government Association and a former leader of Newcastle City Council, at Downing Street. A spokesman said later that the Prime Minister's conversation was "very much an aside, fan to fan, in which he expressed his concern that any allegations would be damaging to the club".

The Newcastle Evening Chronicle, which is not known for criticism of the club, headlined last night's edition "Resign". Mr Banks said of the weekend reports: "If what is claimed was said, was actually said, the views are distasteful and quite frankly will anger all decent fans."

Mr Shepherd, 56, who took over the chairmanship when Sir John retired last December, and Mr Hall were allegedly taped by an undercover reporter during a drinking trip in Marbella, Spain. Mr Shepherd was also said to have boasted about how the club sold Andy Cole for more than £7 million to Manchester United, while knowing he needed an operation. The Manchester club later said Cole's medical record had no "nasty surprises".

The club's share price fell by 12.5p from 90p at the start of trading yesterday before rallying slightly. The drop meant the club was valued at £111.7 million compared to £193.4 million when it floated last April.

His comments came as the club's share price fell on the Stock Market and pressure mounted for the resignation of Freddie Shepherd, the Newcastle chairman, and Douglas Hall, a fellow director and son of the club's great benefactor, Sir John Hall.

The Toon Army, as the side's supporters are known, was less concerned over alleged parties with callgirls than it was about reports of suggestions from Mr Shep-

month Alan Shearer, the £15 million striker, was allegedly involved in a brawl with fellow player Keith Gillespie. The team itself has fallen to fifteenth in the Premiership.

Neither Mr Shepherd nor Mr Hall were available for comment yesterday. Club officials refused to talk about the matter. Reports of an emergency board meeting were dismissed.

The Football Association spokesman, Steve Double, said: "We have nothing to say about this. We will not be getting involved. It is not a matter for us."

A spokesman for Adidas, which paid around £5 million to Newcastle for the team strip contract, said the claims about the club shirts were wrong, and that they were made in the United Kingdom.

The Football Association spokesman, Steve Double, said: "We have nothing to say about this. We will not be getting involved. It is not a matter for us."



Douglas Hall, left, with Newcastle chairman Freddie Shepherd in Monte Carlo last year for a UEFA Cup game



Lord MacLaurin, left, with board member Tim Lamb. Lord MacLaurin was hurt by the ruling against Lord's

# Sex bias case tarnished the game, admits cricket chief

### After the Theresa Harrild case, the ECB chairman plans to make cricket "whiter than white", he tells Sarah Potter

AS ENGLAND embarked on a crucial day of their Caribbean tour, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), was back in his London office from Barbados trying to limit the damage to the game after last week's industrial tribunal case.

Theresa Harrild's victory in the sex discrimination hearing, which the ECB chose not to attend, was delivered with more venom than a Curry Ambrose bonnet. Lord MacLaurin broke his silence on the issue yesterday to admit to the *Times* that the game's image had been tarnished and that the management of his board had failed in crucial areas.

"It does hurt me personally," he said. "Anything that is as high profile as this is very damaging to cricket and to the board. You can say we ought to have been there, but the legal advice given to the board was that we shouldn't. I have spoken to the Tesco human resources director this morning and her view as a professional was that we certainly should have been in the industrial tribunal."

Lord MacLaurin, who spent 38 years building the Tesco empire, stops just short of openly admitting regret. "There's a saying 'What yes was' and I think we have got to learn from our mistakes" and take on responsibilities as the leaders of the game and ensure, if at all possible, that nothing like this ever happens again.

True to Lord MacLaurin's style, that process is already under way. He has scheduled a meeting with two senior members of the ECB's management board, David Morgan and Brian Ford.

"I think it is quite clear what we will do first," he said. "We will most certainly get somebody in place to look after the human resources side of the business. In any organisation, big or small, there has to be somebody there for who a personal problem crops up. This obviously didn't happen at Lord's and that is a fault of our management. We have got to make sure that the lead we give is absolutely whiter than white."

It was with anguish and dismay, therefore, that Lord MacLaurin received news of the tribunal decision at his Barbados hotel last week. "I had everything faxed out and was on the phone to the board maybe three times a day," he said. "I think that, in my experience of spending a lot of time at Lord's during the last year, I have never found any

of the executives behaving in a boorish way to the ladies there. I found it a very happy ship and they all seemed to get on well together. I would imagine that the people at Lord's are pretty devastated at the moment."

Accusations that the ECB view women cricketers as "dylkes" whose only use was to secure lottery money for the game is resented by Lord MacLaurin. "We are very supportive of women in the game," he said. "Our international women cricketers are among the best in the world."

The Women's Cricket Association, formed in 1926, is about to decide if it should dissolve itself and join forces with the ECB. It is the way forward for the women's game and Lord MacLaurin does not believe the imminent partnership has been damaged. "I don't think they will have any doubts about our integrity or our support for the women's game," he said.

"It is total."

He added: "Serious has been every walk of life, not just cricket, and it's vital that ladies are given the same opportunities. Anything less is totally and utterly wrong."

## England Cricket Board

The England and Wales Cricket Board asks us to point out that it did not pay for an abortion for Theresa Harrild, a former employee (industrial tribunal report, March 13). The ECB was not represented at the tribunal.

# MP calls for watchdog to investigate The Times

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government was urged in the Commons yesterday to ask the Press Complaints Commission to investigate a case of alleged interference in editorial independence at *The Times*.

Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Birmingham Erdington, asked Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, what proposals he had to safeguard and extend editorial independence in the media.

Mr Smith said: "Editorial independence of the press is a matter for proprietors and editors. Any direct interference by Government in this relationship would, of course, in a democracy, be inappropriate."

Mr Corbett added: "Don't you agree that interference by newspaper owners and book publishers makes a mockery of editorial independence? Do you not accept that what may please people in Beijing is likely to displease the rest of us? And would you ask the Press Complaints Commission to look into recent cases of interference with editorial independence which threatens press freedom, with a view to encouraging the newspaper owners to sign up to a code of conduct over this important aspect of their business?"

Mr Smith said he assumed the question referred to *The Times*. The paper has recently been criticised by its former East Asia editor, Jonathan Mirsky, who claimed that it had decided not to cover China in "a serious way" because of the business interests there of Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, parent company of *The Times* — a charge vigorously denied by the Editor of *The Times*.

Mr Smith said: "In respect of *The Times*, you will of course be aware that when the previous Government made their decisions in relation to the ownership of *The Times*, one of the very clear provisions that they put in place was as follows — the editor of each newspaper will retain control over any political comment published in his newspaper and in particular shall not be subject to any restraint or inhibition in expressing opinion in reporting news that might directly or indirectly conflict with the opinions or interests of any of the newspaper proprietors."



Corbett: cast doubt on editorial independence

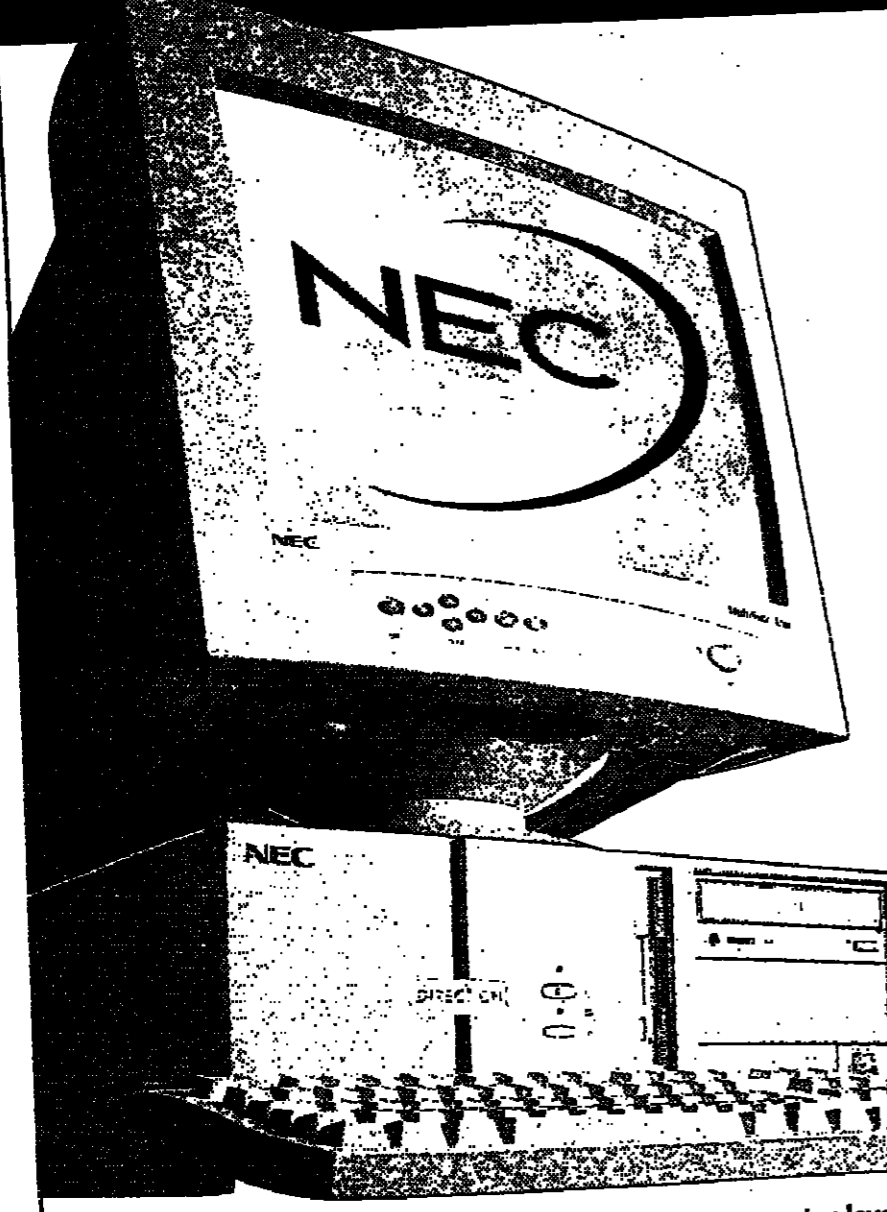
He added: "That remains firmly in place and if you have any evidence that that provision may have been breached then you should draw it to the attention of the independent directors of Times Newspapers, who were established for precisely that purpose."

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, asked about rival newspapers' criticism of *The Times* for its practice of selling at a reduced price on certain days. "Are you altogether satisfied that since *The Times* at a totally non-commercial price on certain days of the week is not undermining other papers not controlled by press tycoons?"

Mr Smith said that matters relating to "loss-leading sales of any items" were matters of competition policy, which was being addressed by the Competition Bill in the Lords.

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across and perhaps 40 miles up. He said there was no evidence that anything reached the ground, but that it was "not unlikely" — in which case the proper description would be a meteorite.

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# Radio 4 denies dumbing down with new look

BY CAROL MIDGLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN'S programmes are to be dropped from Radio 4 and religious broadcasts rescheduled under changes announced yesterday that are intended to make the station more popular.

The moves are likely to reignite accusations that the BBC is "dumbing down" its output to chase ratings, although the station's chief yesterday reaffirmed its "Reithian" ethos.

James Boyle, Controller of Radio 4, said that, with the advent of videos, computer games and multiscreen cinemas, there was no longer demand for a special service for children. "There were claims that religious programmes had been downgraded. *Prayer for the Day*, currently broadcast at 6.25am, will be brought forward to 5.45am — when, critics said, fewer people would be able to listen.

The *Sunday Service*, broadcast live from a church, has been moved from 9.30am to 8.05am. The previous occupant of that slot, *Sunday*, which looks at religious affairs, is brought forward to 7.10am. The contemplative



Boyle: he said Radio 4 had to be modernised.

*Something Understood* has been nearly halved to 30 minutes.

Many other programmes, including *The World at One*, are also to be shorter, to keep the attention of audiences.

There is a new logo for Radio 4 — yellow light bulbs in the shape of quotation marks — and there will be an advertising campaign to inform people of the changes, at an estimated cost of £1 million.

Mr Boyle said that the station had to be modernised. It lost 200,000 listeners in the last three months of 1997 compared with the same period in 1996 leaving its weekly

figure at about 8 million. Mr Boyle said: "We are starting to see a very severe decline in how people regard Radio 4. More evidence has come in of people seeing it as a staid, dull network. That worries me even more than the Rajar [radio authorities' joint audience research] figures.

"But I am very proud of this new schedule. We are not going to be puffed — we are going to have fun. But we will be unashamedly Reithian in our values."

Mr Boyle said that dedicated slots for children, aimed at 13-year-olds, "just did not work". Many children now had televisions and radios in their bedrooms. "There is no point in aiming material to an audience that is not there," he said. "The Radio 4 audience is an adult audience but we hope parents will lead their children to the radio."

Dedicated children's programming will be replaced by



Listen here: launching Radio 4's schedule yesterday were, at back, Gordon Kennedy, Barry Took, Robin Lustig, Ned Sherrin, Laurie Taylor, Mark Lawson; on the next row, Lars Tharp, Eddie Mair, Trevor Harrison, Francine Stock; then John Bird, Tommy Pearson, James Naughtie, Jon Waite, Peter White; and at the front, Maurice Denham, Martha Kearney, Jenni Murray, Kate Adie, John Humphrys, Niamh Cusack, Sir Donald Sinden

"family programmes" designed for adults "with children in mind", such as *drama series*. John Peel will present *Home Truths*, one of several new family-orientated programmes, and Libby Purves presents a new education magazine, *The Learning Curve*.

Of the decision to move *Prayer for the Day*, he added: "There are plenty of people up at 5.45am. We have got to shape our network for the year

we are in. There is nothing diminished about our commitment to religious programming or our output."

The director of BBC Radio, Matthew Bannister, said that Radio 4's budget had increased by £2 million to £42 million in the past year.

"Any accusation that we are starving Radio 4 of funds doesn't bear scrutiny," he said. Other changes to the Radio 4 schedule include a longer

and rethought, *Today* programme, a revamped morning chat slot, extra editions for *The Archers* and *Woman's Hour*, and the replacement of *The Afternoon Shift* with drama and discussion. Kate Adie is to present *From Our Own Correspondent*. The long-running *Saturday* morning programme *Sport on 4* is to be axed, and the former *Panorama* reporter Martin Bashir — a scrum-half in a Wimbledon

side who represented Surrey as a schoolboy — will front a sports discussion programme on Friday nights, *Late Tackle*.

Michael Buerk will interview a guest a moral dilemma in *The Choice*, on Tuesdays, which is brought in to follow *Today* after the 9am news. At the same time on Thursdays, Jonathan Dimbleby grills a public figure in *The Candidate*. Melvyn Bragg keeps his *Start the Week* slot, Purves

her *Midweek* slot, and *Desert Island Discs* will still be repeated on Fridays.

*Mediumwave*, the Sunday morning media affairs programme is being replaced by a Friday afternoon show about the media, *The Message*.

Today Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, meets BBC chiefs to discuss proposed changes to the parliamentary schedule.

Listings, page 50, 51

## Controller has eye on future and an ear to the ground

James Boyle wants to hear the views of Radio 4 listeners in the wake of his changes, writes Raymond Snoddy



When the BBC tries to make modest changes to Radio 4, such as moving *Woman's Hour* from the afternoon to the morning, it runs into a tidal wave of protest from some of the most articulate and conservative listeners in the country.

Yesterday, as BBC executives spelled out some of the most radical changes Radio 4 has seen — old favourites such as *Loose Ends* dropped and many programmes being launched, plus dozens of scheduling changes — the corporation must at the very least be bracing itself for Radio 4 day, April 6 — the day the changes are implemented.

The BBC is setting up helplines, hiring more staff to deal with the expected surge of correspondence and insert-

ing supplements in the national broadsheet newspapers to help people to find their way around the new schedules. The supplements will come with tear-off forms, so that Radio 4's millions of listeners can let James Boyle, the Radio 4 Controller, know exactly what they think. At least the charges of "dumbing down" seem, on present evidence, to be misplaced. The intelligence of the network will, Mr Boyle insists, be unchallenged in everything from science, technology and medicine to the latest drama.

Yesterday, BBC radio executives were claiming their task was no less than to secure the future of "the most intelligent and diverse speech radio network in the world".

As Matthew Bannister, the director of BBC Radio responsible for modernising Radio 1 at the cost of many millions of listeners, said Radio 4 had to be saved "for our children and their children".

With an overall budget of £79 million, Radio 4 can already claim to be the best financed radio network in the world but for Mr Boyle, the last great diverse radio network in the world was no longer invulnerable in a multichannel world. He said: "I think that it is vital that Radio

4 stay at the heart of the culture," and expressed alarm at research showing light listeners of the national station saw it as "dull and staid". Although Radio 4 attracts 8.3 million regular listeners a week — 12 million across a month — both in total number of listeners and share of listening, the trend was gently downwards.

Radio 4 still gets large audiences for news, but markedly lower for its general programmes, which account for £42 million out of the £79 million total. The changes were not happening because of budget cuts. Savings would be reinvested in programmes and there would be an additional investment of £2 million year-on-year.

In particular the programme changes are designed to persuade light Radio 4 listeners to stay longer with the station.

"We lose them from the moment we start to drop share at 6am," Mr Boyle said, adding that Radio 4's decline in listenership during the day was much sharper than any other stations. Listeners were moving to everything from BBC local radio to commercial stations such as Classic FM.

The changes Mr Boyle promised would be "stimulating in the morning and spellbinding in the evening". At the moment it is impossible to judge with any precision the impact of the Radio 4 changes. The biggest risk he has taken is to make all the changes at once. Conventional industry wisdom is that, because radio is such a personal medium, any changes should be made gradually, an approach which has worked well with Radio 2.

By the autumn, it should start to become clear whether Mr Boyle is going to be known as the man who successfully modernised Radio 4, while keeping its intelligence and diversity or the one who drove his listeners away by changing the schedules too much in a one fell swoop.

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# Spock, the father figure who put mothers first

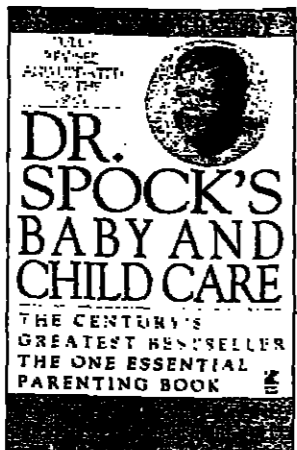
BY EMMA WILKINS

CHILDCARE experts paid tribute yesterday to Benjamin Spock, the first specialist writer to suggest that children should not only be seen and heard, but kissed and cuddled too.

His view that mothers should trust their instincts won him millions of fans across the world and helped to shape the works of modern writers.

Sheila Kitzinger, the social anthropologist and writer on childcare issues, said that Dr Spock helped to free women from the daunting, hectoring manuals that preceded his *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*, first published in 1946.

"Women were being lectured by everyone under the sun — doctors, psychologists and behaviourists. Women were being made to feel inadequate," Professor Kitzinger said. "Spock came along



First print run of 5,000 initiated sales of 50m

and watched mothers, learnt from them. He trusted mothers. I think he was the first person to do that. He wasn't in the business of putting mothers down."

She used Dr Spock's book when bringing up her five

children between 1956 and 1963. "I read his book and then put it away, which is what I think he would have wanted. I learnt from my children."

Professor Kitzinger said his jaunty prose reflected a "unique ability to write as if in conversation. It seemed as if he was in the same room as you and the baby."

Penelope Leach, perhaps the best known childcare expert in Britain after Dr Spock, said: "He was the first doctor to really interest himself in babies' minds and emotions as well as their spots and ear infections."

Ms Leach defended him from charges that he reversed his early views on permissiveness. "It annoys me that he is criticised, because he never said, 'Let your child do anything he likes and run wild'. It is true that he did a bit of a U-turn in the late 1970s and hardened his approach. He had his feelings badly hurt by the women's movement, who



Spock in 1974, meeting a mother with her quintuplets and sixth child: "He wrote as if in conversation with you"

were the very people he felt he was fighting for."

Christina Hardymont, author and broadcaster, said that Dr Spock was the first paediatrician to bring Freud into the nursery. "The psychology of childcare had always concentrated on issues like power complexes, such as sibling rivalry. Spock shifted the whole emphasis to the idea of the necessity of love for the child." She said that he had

quickly revised his early ideas on total freedom for the child.

"In his first edition, you were supposed to greet just everything the child did with a gay laugh. But by later editions, he decided that he'd gone a bit far."

His own upbringing, as the youngest of six children in New England, was certainly of the old school. The young Spock's fierce mother often commanded her lawyer hus-

band: "Spank the children, darling, I am too tired."

Ms Hardymont said that Dr Spock's book caught the spirit of a postwar age, tired of rigid discipline and disciplinarians. His work is now second-only to the Bible for worldwide non-fiction sales. His publisher had told him: "It doesn't have to be a very good book, because at 25 cents a copy we'll sell thousands." More than 50 million copies

have been sold in more than 30 languages. The first edition had a print run of under 5,000 copies and a near-mint condition first edition might now fetch £600-£800.

Libby Purves, the *Times* columnist and broadcaster, said that Dr Spock played a valuable role in humanising the process of bringing up a baby. "He marked the end of an attitude that was hundreds of years old, in which children were seen as naturally guilty who needed training and taming."

"He contributed to the idea that the child is, at the very least, morally neutral. Before Spock, it was a pretty harsh landscape, with writers talking about 'the well-ordered nursery' and 'mothercraft'."

Marvin Drellich, a professor of psychiatry at New York Medical College, said: "He was blamed for the radical behaviour of youth in the Sixties. But that didn't emerge from Spock's teachings. It was far more a reflection of the social and political climate."

Leading article, page 19  
Obituary, page 21

## 'TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS'

THE following are taken from the 1968 edition of Dr Spock's *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care* first published in 1946.

We know for a fact that the natural loving care that kindly parents give their children is a hundred times more valuable than their knowing how to pin a diaper on just right or how to make a formula expertly.

Don't take too seriously all that the neighbours say. Don't be overawed by what the experts say. Don't be afraid to trust your own common sense. Bringing up your child won't be a complicated job if you take it easy, trust your own instincts and follow the directions that your doctor gives you.

Every time you pick your baby up, even if you do it a little awkwardly at first, every time you change him, bathe him, feed him, smile at him, he's getting a feeling that he belongs to you and that you belong to him.

Strictness or permissiveness is not the real issue. Good-hearted parents who aren't afraid to be firm when it is necessary can get good results with either moderate strictness or moderate permissiveness. On the other hand, a strictness that comes from harsh feelings or a permissiveness that is timid or vacillating can each lead to poor results.

Books about child care, like this one, put so much emphasis on all the needs that children have — for love, for understanding, for patience, for consistency, for firmness, for protection, for comradeship, for calories and vitamins — that parents sometimes feel physically and emotionally exhausted just from reading about what is expected of them. They get the impression that they are meant to have no needs themselves. Child-rearing is a long, hard job and parents are just as human as their children.

## Managing the economy calls for political will, not rules

Gordon Brown's new *Code for Fiscal Stability* is yet another attempt to impose virtue by formal rules — admirable in intention, but likely to be flawed in execution. Nobody questions Mr Brown's principles of openness, transparency and accountability, and there are attractions in a statutory code. But the past 20 years has shown how hard it is to constrain economic policy-making in this way. What matters in politics is will, not rules.

After the economic excesses of the 1970s, there were several attempts to tie the hands of politicians. In Britain, the medium-term financial strategy was launched 18 years ago with a set of targets

for monetary growth and public borrowing. Monetary growth soon exceeded the targets by a large amount, leading to greater focus on the exchange rate in the late 1980s.

The fiscal record was much better. The Budget deficit steadily fell during the 1980s to turn into a substantial surplus at the end of the decade. This was thanks to Nigel Lawson's firmness on public spending and the strength of the economy. But the inherent flaw in such strategies was shown when the surplus rapidly turned into a rector deficit, thanks both to the recession of the early 1990s and to a substantial relaxation of public spending controls. This illustrates how success is dependent on the state of the economy and on political will — existing under Lawson and missing later — rather than on the existence of a formal framework.

A parallel attempt to impose formal rules was made across the Atlantic in the mid-1980s. The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act set out a series of targets for eliminating the Federal Budget deficit over the following five years. If the deficit was not cut to the prescribed level, then a process of sequestration was supposed to occur, requiring a fixed percentage cut in spending programmes to meet the target. But three fifths of the Budget, cutaneous pro-

grammes such as social security and health, would be exempt. So the Act was widely seen as a tough-seeming but empty gesture that really put off necessary cuts.

As John Makin and Norman Ornstein conclude in their *Debt and Taxes*, each year a prudent goal was set, each year it was missed, and each year the ultimate goal of a balanced budget moved further away. Under the "iron law of the unintended consequences of reform", politicians had an incentive to meet the next year's targets on paper, but an even greater incentive for creative accounting to shift costs out of the formal budget. (This is akin to the Government's plan to

raid the National Lottery for £1 billion for core spending programmes.)

Mr Brown has learnt from these experiences by not setting over-rigid targets for financial variables over which the Government does not have direct control. That is reflected in the new monetary arrangements with the Bank of England and the proposed Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report.

This will set out both firm short-term objectives and illustrative projections for at least ten years, depending on a range of assumptions. According to a draft clause for the Finance Bill, the code, and any subsequent modifications, will have to be laid before Parliament and approved by the Commons.

The main attraction of yesterday's proposals is to broaden public debate about fiscal policy and to identify more explicitly where targets have been missed, or "named and shamed", as it is now fashionably known. But whether Mr Brown succeeds in holding to his principles of the golden rule (only borrowing to invest over the economic cycle) and of limiting public debt as a proportion of national income will depend on his continued success in holding down public spending. In the end, it is all about political class.

PETER RIDDELL

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

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# Prince's dealers count cost of £180m battle

### Armenian pair deny backing down after case put business methods

### on show, writes Michael Horsnell

JUDGE will today rubber-stamp the sudden end of the 80 million lawsuit between Prince Jefri of Brunei and his former friends, Bob and Rafi Manoukian. Each side has ceased the other of climbing down.

Sources for Prince Jefri said that the brothers who linked first after five weeks of a High Court hearing in which they accused the billionaire Prince of failing to honour no property deals worth 80 million. But their representatives claimed that it was swayers for the Prince — who was seeking £100 million damages from the Manoukians for allegedly exploiting their relationship with him and the Brunei Royal Family — who made the first move for settlement.

The sudden withdrawal by both sides of their claims, with at least five months still to run, has left the terms of agreement largely shrouded in secrecy, but it is understood that they will each pay their own costs,

estimated already to have been approaching £10 million. The cost to the London-based brothers in lost business confidentiality will probably be the greater. During the three weeks in the witness box, the normally discreet Bob Manoukian, 53, was obliged to disclose business arrangements under cross-examination.

He disclosed that the Manoukians were involved in deals worth £550 million with the youngest brother of the Sultan of Brunei, from whom they made a profit of about £280 million, using a web of offshore trusts, Netherlands Antilles companies and Liechtenstein trusts to conduct their business. The disclosures were of interest to tax investigators, who kept a watching brief on the case and ordered transcripts of the evidence.

Although there is no suggestion of wrong-doing, it is understood that the Inland Revenue could reopen an inquiry into the income and



Confidentiality: Bob Manoukian, left, and Rafi

wealth of the brothers, who settled for an agreed tax payment of £200,000 after negotiations with the corrupt Revenue "ghostbuster" Michael Alcock. Such agreements normally remain confidential, but their tax affairs came to light last year during the trial of Alcock, who received five years at the Old Bailey for corruption.

A spokesman for Inland Revenue said: "There is nothing we can say about the Manoukian issue. It's all covered by confidentiality."

Watches (who took the name Bob) and Rafi Manoukian are

two of five brothers of Armenian Christian origin who fled the Lebanon after the start of the civil war. After investing much of its long-standing wealth in the Middle East, the Manoukian family was attracted to Britain by the slump in the property market when it was a good time to buy. The family's wealth was thereafter based on its property investment.

In the past two decades, Bob has become the 128th richest man in Britain with assets of £160 million, and, with his brother, 44, accumulated trappings such as a yacht, the

Siran, often moored a Gulfstream IV aircraft and two custom-built Rolls-Royce Phantom VIs.

Bob and his father, a businessman who died in 1994, had become customers of the exclusive Mayfair menswear shop Vincci, which they bought in 1978. Rafi was sent in to oversee the business, where Middle East princes were among the clientele — including the playboy Prince Jefri.

Bob was introduced by his brother to the Prince, who wanted to see their collection of cars, at a social lunch at the Connaught Hotel in 1982, and thus began a profitable trading relationship which endured until 1995.

That same year the Sultan of Brunei was building a 2,000-room palace, and Rafi was asked by Prince Jefri's private secretary to go to Brunei with samples and catalogues of sumptuous china, glass and cutlery, winning orders worth £100,000.

The following year, as a trading partnership grew, the Sultan visited the Manoukians' house in Cadogan Square, where he swam in the family pool. The Manoukians subsequently turned down an offer of £25 million from the

Sultan. The pattern of trading between the Sultan and Bob was the same as that later adopted between Rafi and Prince Jefri. Bob Manoukian told the High Court that the Sultan would either give Rafi a cheque payable to an off-shore entity or, if he was in Brunei, Bob would receive a cheque in person. Only very large items, such as the refurbishment of the Sultan's 727, were paid for separately from his normal bill.

Bob Manoukian claimed that it was the Prince's embarrassing appetite for the flesh that brought an end to their relationship. He alleged that at one time the Prince kept 40 prostitutes at the Dorchester hotel, which he owns. The brothers were in turn accused of charging Prince Jefri up to three times the normal price for goods.

A source for the brothers emphasised yesterday that the Manoukians had always paid their taxes, and said that the Prince had ordered his lawyers late last week to find a way of reaching an out-of-court settlement.

But from the Prince's camp came a different interpretation — that the Manoukians no longer wanted the strain of another five months in court.



Disclosures: the polo-playing Prince Jefri

## Sultan backed his brother in defence of family honour

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Sultan of Brunei was said to have been outraged by what he regarded as the betrayal of his family by the Manoukian brothers' legal action. Although his instincts are normally to avoid public exposure, he backed his younger brother, Prince Jefri, in what he regarded as a matter of principle involving the honour of the ruling family of the oil-rich kingdom.

The world's richest man, who commands a personal fortune of £20 billion, he felt that Bob and Rafi Manoukian, whom they treated as close friends and emissaries rather than advisers, owed them a fiduciary duty. From the autumn of 1982, Rafi Manoukian was allowed to look after and act as guardian in London for the Prince's children, Prince Hakeem, Princess Hamidah and Prince Bahar.

The Royal Family felt aggrieved that the Manoukians, having exploited their friendship with profits of £280 million in 14 years, should sue over two property deals. They insist that no agreements had been entered into.

The allegations about the Prince's appetite for women, for high living and recklessness may have cooled his

enthusiasm for a trial in open court — even though the court case was never reported in Brunei, where the media is owned by the Royal Family. The rules of absolute monarchy in Brunei, a former British Protectorate, have a stronger pull in which secrecy and royal dignity prevail.

The Prince resigned as Brunei's Finance Minister last year in order to concentrate on his business affairs and now devotes much of his time to running the Amedeo group, which owns Asprey, the Queen's jewellers, bought for £24 million.

He retains the position of chairman of the Brunei Investment Agency, which is using part of the country's oil wealth, to spearhead Bruneian investment round the world — including its interests in hotels in Britain, Europe and the United States.

Since his accession to the throne in 1967, the Sultan has taken Brunei to being one of the richest countries on Earth. Sitting astride the region's largest reserves of oil and gas, it has one of the world's highest per capita gross domestic products — wealth sufficient for its 300,000 population to boast an average of nearly four cars per family.

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# Tobacco firm says it rejected research on cancer link

Gallaher says 1970 memo will not weaken its defence against smokers' lawsuits, writes Robin Young

BRITAIN'S biggest tobacco company said yesterday that a 1970 memorandum which accepted "beyond all reasonable doubt" that smoking caused lung cancer was an initial reaction to research that was later discounted.

research would appear to us to remove the controversy regarding the causation of human lung cancer, [although] it does not help us directly with the problem of how to modify our cigarettes."

Yesterday Ian Birks, Gallaher's head of corporate affairs, said: "Gallaher considered this published research. The internal memo, now made public, was an initial reaction. Gallaher subse-

quently discounted the views expressed in that memo. Our position is that the link between smoking and cancer has not been proved, although we agree that smoking is a risk factor and that statistics show that, if you smoke, you are more likely to get certain diseases."

Mr Birks said that the research, which was not commissioned or carried out by the company, had been criticised by a number of

independent bodies. He denied claims by anti-smoking campaigners that the document would form an important weapon in the legal action by lung cancer victims against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco.

"We have, of course, been aware of the existence of this memo and its publication now does nothing to change our confidence in our ability to defend ourselves against

litigation," he said. "We are advised that we have meritorious defences. We have every confidence in the judicial process and we will not be settling cases."

Clive Bates, the director of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), who disclosed the memorandum at the weekend, said that it was unbelievable that the tobacco company was still insisting that the link between smoking and cancer was

not proven. "It takes my breath away," he said. "Last week scientists were saying that passive smoking causes cancer, so it is unbelievable that they can still attempt to maintain that smoking itself does not cause cancer."

Chewing gum and patches can help even hardened smokers to cut their consumption, trials have shown. People who did not want to stop reduced their number of

cigarettes by more than half if they were able to satisfy their craving for nicotine by other means.

The five-week trials by a research institute in Sweden are described today in the British Medical Association journal *Tobacco Control*. The journal also reports that more films show stars smoking. Californian researchers found that, in 35 top films of the Nineties, 51 per cent of scenes involving tobacco showed leading characters smoking, compared with 26 per cent in films from the Eighties.

# Ministry of secrets 'worsened BSE crisis'

Scientist says refusal to share data meant 250,000 cattle were needlessly infected. Michael Hornsby reports



Anderson: was refused access to BSE data

UP TO 250,000 cattle may have been infected needlessly with "mad cow" disease because of a culture of secrecy at the Ministry of Agriculture, the BSE inquiry was told yesterday.

Roy Anderson, an expert on controlling the spread of infectious diseases, estimated that the figure represented a quarter of all animals infected to date, and that nearly 800,000 cattle had entered the food chain incubating the disease.

He said that, in common with other scientists, he had found that persuading the ministry to share information on BSE was "like getting blood out of a stone". If he had been given early access to the data, he would have been able to show that a ban on contaminated cattle feed, identified as

the most likely cause of BSE, was not fully effective, he said. Professor Anderson, who was appearing as a witness before the inquiry, is director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for the Epidemiology of Infectious Disease, an independent research body at Oxford University. The ban on feeding meat and bone meal to cattle was imposed in July 1988, but Ministry of Agriculture officials have since accepted that stocks of prohibited feed may have remained in circulation for another four or five years.

"If this had been known at the time [in 1989], and if measures to prevent the continued use of contaminated feed had been put in place, the size of the epidemic would have been significantly smaller, by about one quarter of a

million infected cattle," Professor Anderson said in a statement to the inquiry.

Professor Anderson admitted that this was not a precise figure, but insisted that early access to the data would have made it possible to work out by "back-calculation" that the feed ban was not being properly enforced.

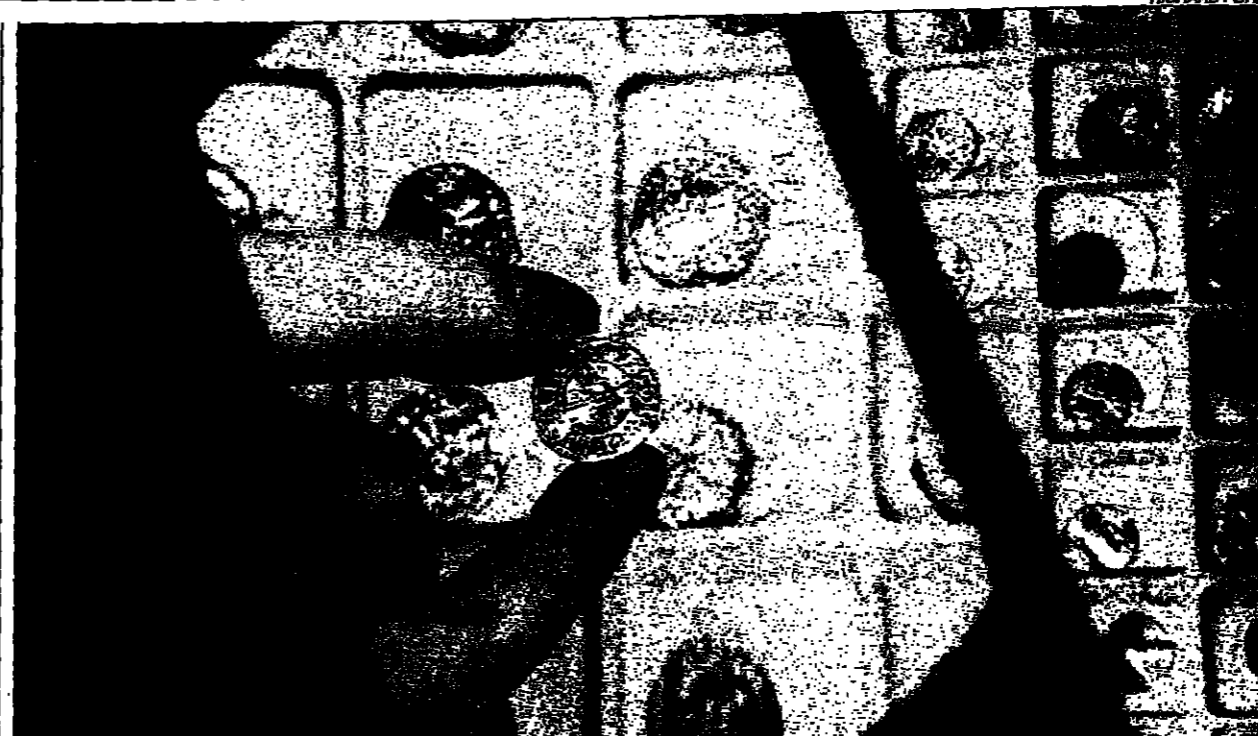
If the feed ban had been fully effective by 1990, the size of the epidemic would have

been cut by about 140,000 infected cattle, and by about 25,000 if full enforcement had been delayed until 1991, Professor Anderson said. As it was, the ban probably did not become fully effective until 1994-95. Professor Anderson estimated that nearly a million cattle had been infected, including 171,000 which had developed full-blown BSE and been slaughtered and destroyed.

The scientist said he had made "a series of formal approaches" between 1989 and the spring of 1991 to ministry officials to be allowed access to the database on BSE held by the Central Veterinary Laboratory at Weybridge, in Surrey, but had been refused. He had encountered what seemed to be "a culture of secrecy" and a lack of interest in his group at Oxford becoming involved in BSE research even though it had the biggest concentration of specialists in its field anywhere in Europe.

Veterinary research was "in a sorry state" and the epidemiological expertise of the Central Veterinary Laboratory was very limited, partly because the subject was not covered properly during veterinary training. Scientists there were not equipped to analyse BSE data properly.

Professor Anderson said Britain's scientific expertise had declined partly because of the underfunding of research in the 1980s. This made it all the more important that data on new diseases should be made available to as wide a range of scientists and expert bodies as possible.



One of the Expanding Cross coins, part of a hoard of 500 silver pennies from the reign of Edward the Confessor

# Finders cash in on £100,000 hoard

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A HOARD of nearly 500 Anglo-Saxon silver pennies, discovered with a metal detector by a retired train driver and two of his friends on the Kent coast, has been declared treasure trove.

Coins dating from the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-66) were unearthed last September in a field at Appledore, near Dungeness, and will be valued this summer by an independent committee. Dealers speculated yesterday that the find might be worth about £100,000.

Gareth Williams, curator of early medieval coins at the British Museum — which hopes to buy the hoard — described it as "the most significant find of late Anglo-

Saxon coins to be made in England this century". He added: "Its size and the large number of mints represented will enable a serious study of coin circulation in the mid-11th century. What's very unusual is how well preserved they are."

The hoard was discovered by Bert Douch, who retired four years ago after 45 years as a train driver, Phil Collins, a retired garage owner, and his friend Laura Dickinson. If the British Museum's meagre acquisition funds can stretch to the purchase price, the three finders will receive the full value. Otherwise, assuming no other museum can afford it, the treasure will be returned to the finders to keep



Douch: his other finds include Roman coins

or sell on the open market. Mr Douch was out detecting again yesterday, but his wife, Joyce, recalled the moment they came home with the hoard: "Bert was like the

cat with two tails." His previous finds include a hoard of Roman coins at Hastings. He and Mr Collins will spend the proceeds on a new car each.

The earliest coins date from 1051-52 and are known as the Expanding Cross type. One side bears a royal bust — a representation, rather than a portrait — with the King's name and title around it. On the back is a cross, whose arms widen from the centre.

The hoard would have been worth the equivalent of about £100,000 today. It is possible that it could have been buried at the time of the rebellion of Earl Godwin, who landed at Dungeness in 1052 after being outlawed by Edward the previous year.

# Europe clears Ulster beef

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BEEF from Northern Ireland was cleared to return to shops and restaurants within weeks, after European Union farm ministers voted last night to ease the export ban, imposed two years ago at the height of the scare over "mad cow" disease.

The deal, produced after a

year of negotiation, will apply only to younger cattle from Northern Ireland herds which have been certified free of BSE. This covers the great majority of the Province's beef herds, which represent 12 per cent of the United Kingdom total.

The decision amounts to a political breakthrough that should pave the way to the gradual lifting of the whole

embargo. The European Commission, which had backed Britain against initial opposition from member states, is expected to approve the resumption of Ulster exports within weeks, after a final inspection, but removal of the whole ban will take years.

Germany and Belgium voted against any relaxation, while Spain and Luxembourg abstained.

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# Most men claim they would take contraceptive pill

TWO THIRDS of men would use a male contraceptive pill, if one were proven and available today, a survey in Edinburgh has shown.

Women are more enthusiastic, with 93 per cent saying men should get the chance to take more responsibility for contraception, and more than three quarters saying that they would encourage their partners to use a male pill.

The results, from two surveys carried out by Professor David Baird of the Centre for Reproductive Biology at Edinburgh University and colleagues, have encouraged the Dutch drug company Akzo Nobel to commit itself to marketing a male pill within seven years.

Professor Herjan Coelingh Bennink, director of the Reproductive Medicine Programme at Akzo Nobel's drug arm, Organon, believes that five years will be needed to prove a male pill safe and effective, and a further two to obtain a licence.

Professor Baird yesterday welcomed the commitment of a major pharmaceutical company to the project. Although trials have shown that male contraception using hormones works, most companies have been frightened off by the cost of development and the potential costs of litigation should anything go wrong.

The male pill will consist of

**Survey shows women happy to pass on the responsibility to partners, writes Nigel Hawkes**

a progestogen similar to those used in the female pill, plus the male hormone testosterone. Progestogens — the synthetic versions of the female sex hormone progesterone — have been shown to inhibit sperm production, but they also inhibit the production of testosterone, which has to be replaced.

Ideally, both hormones would be in the form of a combined oral pill, taken once a day. That was at present impossible, Professor Bennink said, because oral testosterone could cause liver problems. In the short term, the Organon pill is likely to consist of a progestogen called Org-30659, taken once a day, combined with injections of testosterone once a month or once every three months.

Doubts had been expressed that men would use a contraceptive pill, or that women

would trust them to do so. Professor Baird said, but his studies had gone some way towards dispelling them.

One study, yet to be published in full, questioned 1,800 men in four centres around the world. A quarter of them were in Edinburgh, where three groups of men took part: firmers, because they had free time to answer questions; blood donors, because they were seen as an altruistic group; and expectant fathers.

The study showed that 42 per cent of the men were already using condoms or had had a vasectomy, and 66 per cent said they would use a male pill. An oral pill was the first choice, but the men did not rule out injections, 25 per cent saying they would be willing to have one every three months.

A second survey questioned 450 women in Edinburgh, of whom 93 per cent favoured men taking a chance to share responsibility in contraception. If a male pill were available now, 37 per cent of the women said they would ask their partners to take it, while 76 per cent said that they would encourage their partners to use it in the future.

Professor Baird said: "In the same way that women today play a bigger role in society, men are expected to take a bigger responsibility for contraception."



Elmazi, left, was recruited for a raid on the couple after Papas had secretly returned to Cephalonia, police say

## Couple had their arms raised in surrender when killers struck

THE British couple murdered on the Greek island of Cephalonia had their hands raised in surrender when they were stabbed, their Albanian killers were said to have confessed yesterday.

Police said that Lambro Papas, 25, and Eduard Elmazi, 19, who will be charged with murder today, planned the crime several weeks ago and intended to steal credit cards. They fled with a purse containing mixed foreign coins, worthless to them, which the victims, Roy and Judith Eccles, had saved from holidays.

Papas and Elmazi were unlikely ever to be freed, Greek police said, as authorities on the island tried to reassure the 65,000 Britons expected to holiday there this year and the 500-strong expatriate community. Makis Metaxas, the island's governor, insisted that Cephalonia was

a safe destination for tourists. Police said that the Albanians described in full confessions how they kept watch for a day on the Eccleses' home in the village of Kaminarata from a derelict property opposite. After dark last Wednesday, they broke a balcony door to get in, but the noise woke Mr and Mrs Eccles. They were killed with a knife and their garden fork.

Police said that the Albanians probably always intended to kill the couple and that they definitely could not be left alive after they had seen the intruders. The men panicked and fled, leaving the credit cards they had come

for in Mrs Eccles's handbag. They had planned to hide in Italy but, because they had no money, went via Athens to the neighbouring island of Lefkas, where they were arrested on Saturday.

Papas, from the Albanian town of Avlona, has also confessed to a previous burglary involving another British couple, Richard and Debbie Dawes, in the same village. There was a strong feeling in the Greek community yesterday that more could have been done to solve the first crime.

Mr Dawes said: "It is a shame that the police did not catch him earlier and avoided the needless deaths of these two poor souls." Andreas Capoyianopoulos, director of police on Cephalonia, said that Papas had been suspected of crime because he appeared to live beyond his means. But there had not been any evidence against him for the burglary at Christmas, after which the Daweses' savings of £25,000 were withdrawn taken from a bank with a stolen card while they were in England.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Abandoned baby was strangled

A newborn baby found in a binbag outside a theme park had been strangled just a few hours after birth. Detectives fear that the mother could be being held against her will by the baby's killer. A post-mortem examination showed that the baby appeared to have been healthy at birth.

The boy's body was found by a man walking his dog next to the children's theme park Gulliver's World in Warrington, Cheshire, on Saturday.

#### Minister's death

Hugh Coveney, the former Irish Defence Minister found dead below cliffs in Cork, died from injuries consistent with a fall, according to post-mortem tests. Mr Coveney, 62, suffered head and chest injuries after apparently slipping from a path. *Obituary, page 21*

#### Well off the rails

Complaints about the capital's train services reached record levels last year, according to the London Regional Passengers Committee. It said the worst offenders included Connex South Eastern, Silverlink, South West Trains and Thameslink.

#### Peace mission

Colin Parry, whose son Tim was killed by the IRA bomb in Warrington five years ago, is giving up his job as a personnel manager to raise funds for an international peace centre in the town. It will be used by young visitors from Ireland and other countries.

#### Dogged courage

Wendy Smith, 36, a cancer survivor from Hope under Dinmore, Hereford & Worcester, has become the first person to cross the 6,000-mile North American continent on a dog sled. She hopes to raise £200,000 for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

#### Seat of learning

Kevin O'Neill, a farmer who took up studying to pass the time he spent sat in his car waiting for his daughters at music practice in Shrewsbury, has graduated from the Open University with an honours degree in mathematics and computing after six years.

## Ignorance fuels cancer deaths

BY A CORRESPONDENT

GREATER awareness of bowel cancer could prevent thousands of deaths and save the NHS £84 million a year, it was claimed yesterday. MPs from all parties and health experts called for bowel cancer, which kills 49 people a day, to be given a higher priority in healthcare.

Campaigners say that half the 31,000 cases in Britain each year could be prevented by people eating a diet high in fibre, fruit and vegetables. An NOP poll published yesterday

by the Cancer Research Campaign and Kellogg's showed that 84 per cent of people were unaware that bowel cancer — Britain's second most common cause of cancer death — was a significant health threat. Fewer than 30 per cent knew it was preventable.

The alliance, which launched its campaign in the House of Commons, said greater priority should be given to educating the public if the recently published government target for reducing

cancer was to be achieved. Ministers pledged in a Green Paper, *Our Healthier Nation*, to cut cancer deaths among the under-65s by at least a fifth by 2010.

Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said that £84 million of NHS spending on bowel cancer treatment and diagnosis, "and the incalculable cost of human suffering", could be saved each year if "more people knew about prevention."

## Father moves gate to stop school bus

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A MAN is moving his garden gate a few feet to the left to beat council officials who ruled that he lived too close to school for his children to go by free bus.

Dean Morris said he had no choice but to uproot his hedge and redirect his garden path after Caerphilly Borough Council measured his sons' walk to school as exactly 1 1/2 miles, the new threshold for free transport.

Mr Morris, of Blackwood, Caerphilly, was told that the bus, which goes past his house with empty seats, would no longer stop for Huw, 8, and Hywel, 6. But he was determined they would not walk because they would have to cross a busy road.

The family was one of several to lose transport after the council introduced seat-belt-only buses. The council said the qualifying distance for places was reduced because there were fewer seats available.

Mr Morris said he would put a new gate on the far side of his garden: "I'm going to dig up my gate, run a new path over my garden and put a



Gate expectations: Dean Morris with his son Huw

new gate on the other side. That will make the distance a mile and a half plus three yards."

He added: "It sounds daft but, when I asked the council officials if that would make the difference, they agreed."

A council spokesman said: "The limit is 1 1/2 miles and we have to stick to that for all children." He added: "We have offered to reassess the distance from the school to his property to which gate the children use."

However, in a concession which started yesterday, the council has given temporary passes to the boys as long as there is space on the bus.

## Sports specialty is doctors' goal

BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TREATING sports injuries is becoming so specialised that the academy of ten ten Royal Medical Colleges agreed yesterday to establish a board to develop the relevant expertise.

By the autumn a diploma in the subject will be available and, before long, sports medicine could turn into a speciality in its own right.

"We are moving from the days of the glorious amateur to becoming very much more professional," said Dr. Donohall MacAuley, a Belfast GP who edits *The British Journal of Sports Medicine*. "If you are a rugby player lying on the pitch with a neck injury, you want to see a real expert coming on to look at you and not some benevolent ex-player in a sheepskin coat, however well-intentioned."

Professional sportsmen could not afford to lose time because of being given the wrong treatment, Dr. MacAuley said. A bad diagnosis could mean loss of livelihood.

As well as specialist knowledge covering the lines of musculo-skeletal conditions, asthma, diabetes, jet lag, osteoporosis and chronic fa-

tigue, sports doctors needed a different outlook. "A GP dealing with important illness problems of life and death is not going to be terribly interested in an athlete who comes in and says he is running 800 metres two seconds slower than usual. But if you are someone who makes a livelihood from running, a two-second loss of form can be a catastrophe."

Dr. MacAuley said that the standard for the new diploma, offered by the intercollegiate academic board of sport and exercise medicine, would be high. Half the candidates failed the examination for a similar qualification already available in Scotland.

The increasing danger of litigation arising from poor treatment of sports injuries also highlights the need for more specialists, according to the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland. Ian Simpson, the chief executive, said: "Sportsmen are expensive people. If doctors make a mess sorting them out it is an expensive mess. Any GP interested in the field should know the limit of their experience."

## Lighthouses leave their stamp



From left, St John's Point, the Smalls, the Needles and the first Eddystone lighthouse, built in 1698

THE end of manned lighthouses was marked yesterday with the issue of a series of stamps. The spread of automation has gathered pace so fast since the 1980s that only four of the 72 lighthouses in England, Wales and the Channel Islands are still manned by keepers. The last to leave will be the keeper of North Foreland, near Broadstairs, Kent, in October.

The stamp series also marks the 300th anniversary of the first Eddystone lighthouse, built on a notorious reef 14 miles

off Plymouth. Yesterday's launch took place on Plymouth Hoe at Smeaton's Tower, one of four lighthouses which have guarded the Eddystone reef over the centuries.

The first Eddystone lighthouse was built in 1698, but was washed away by a storm in 1703. It is depicted on the new 63p stamp, the most valuable of the series of five. A cake in the shape of the lighthouse was cut during yesterday's Royal Mail ceremony. Smeaton's Tower was one of its

successors, built on the Eddystone reef in 1759, until it was replaced by the current light, completed in 1882. The tower was dismantled stone by stone and brought ashore to be rebuilt in 1884 on Plymouth Hoe — from where the Eddystone can be seen in the distance.

The 20p stamp shows the lighthouse at St John's Point, in Co Down; the 25p one depicts the Smalls Light in Pembrokeshire; the 37p shows the Needles off the Isle of Wight; and the 43p stamp features Bell Rock, Dundee.

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Wrecked: Ferris wheel

### Five die in Middle Eastern sandstorm

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FIVE people were killed in Egypt, the Suez Canal was closed and airports were shut for traffic as a sandstorm created havoc in the Middle East yesterday.

One of Beirut's most famous landmarks, a Ferris wheel that survived the 15-year civil war, was torn down at dawn by 70mph winds.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who was due to begin a peace mission in Egypt, was forced to spend Sunday night in Cyprus because Cairo airport was closed. Lebanese radio stations urged people with asthma to remain indoors and wear masks. Sea bathing was forbidden in Israel, where jetties were ripped away and coral reefs damaged.

The five victims died in road accidents in Egypt. More than 30 were injured. About 40 ships were held up at the northern tip of the Suez Canal, which was closed for hours after driving winds whipped up high waves.

# Israeli vandals add to anger over Cook visit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



VANDALS suspected of being extreme right-wing Jews yesterday painted slogans on the walls of the British Consulate in west Jerusalem calling Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, an anti-Semite.

The unusual protest was said by Israeli sources to reflect the deep anger felt by many Israelis at Mr Cook's determination to visit the contested east Jerusalem settlement of Har Homa in order to underline European Union opposition to settlements. "Robin Cook is an anti-Semite," "Robin Cook go home" and "Har Homa is Jewish forever" were written on the walls of the building.

The British Government later gave in to Israeli diplomatic pressure and agreed reluctantly that Mr Cook would make his visit with an Israeli rather than a Palestinian escort. Officials were shocked at the vandalism, which came 24 hours before a planned demonstration by ultra-nationalist Jews. A British Government statement said it "regretted that some people have to express themselves in that way, especially since the purpose of Mr Cook's visit is to advance the peace process".

Har Homa is a disputed hilltop in southeastern Jerusalem, a few miles from Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Bulldozers were dispatched to the site on March 18 last year to begin building 6,500 housing units for Jews, commercial and industrial zones, public buildings, parks and

Jabal Abu Ghneim, after a Christian priest who once lived in the area.

Har Homa (Hebrew for bastion) was a sub-district of Bethlehem under Jordanian rule when Israel captured the eastern sector of Jerusalem and annexed part of the West Bank into the city — an act not recognised by most foreign governments. The land was used by Palestinians from neighbouring villages to graze livestock and grow wheat.

The original decision to launch the project, which the Arabs claim is designed to divide Jerusalem from the West Bank, was taken by the Likud-led Government in 1991 and later continued by the Labour-led administration, but permission for building work was not given until Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, responded to pressure from the far Right.

That move effectively deadlocked the peace process and sparked widespread Palestinian protests. A British official said yesterday that it was "vital for Mr Cook to see for himself the spot that is causing all these difficulties".

According to an investigation undertaken by Associated Press, the largest US news agency, Israel expropriated 463 acres for the settlement project, about a quarter of which belonged to Palestinians. The remainder was taken from Jewish owners or was owned by the State. Before 1967, only 16 per cent of the land was owned by Jews.



The British Consulate in Jerusalem bearing graffiti criticising Robin Cook's visit to Har Homa today. The slogans accuse the Foreign Secretary of anti-Semitism.

## West Bank warning to Jewish settlers

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE head of the Palestinian security forces, Jibril Rajoub, issued a warning yesterday that any Jewish settlers who entered areas under his control and harmed Palestinians would not come out alive.

He was reacting to the Friday night attack by some 30 Jewish residents in Hebron who stormed a Palestinian-controlled section of the divided West Bank city and threw stones at an Arab home and smashed car windscreens. He also said that he was suspending security co-operation with Israeli troops in Hebron.

Israel's Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, denounced Mr Rajoub's comments, saying that such grave statements would lead only to an escalation of violence.

The Hebron residents suspected of being involved in the attack were summoned by police for questioning, but so far none has appeared. Several have called and asked for the questioning to be postponed, while others have stayed away.

The police say they will ask the courts to issue arrest warrants for those who have ignored their summons.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops set up roadblocks at the entrance to Nablus, another city on the West Bank that is under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

The move was in response to the Palestinian refusal to allow some Jewish worshippers to visit Joseph's Tomb, the traditional burial place of one of the Jewish patriarchs. The director of the site, Eli Rosenfeld, said the worshippers were demanding that the army ensure their right to pray at the shrine.

## Afghan city calm after two days of slaughter

UNEASY calm returned to the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif yesterday after 48 hours of street battles that left at least 100 dead and more than 300 injured. The streets remained empty, however, save for forces loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the ethnic Uzbek leader, and Hezb-i-Wahdat, the Hazara Shia faction, which are fighting each other for control of the city.

Both are members of the Northern Alliance, which controls most of northern Afghanistan, and which is fighting Taleban, the Islamic purist movement that controls Kabul, the capital, and the southern three quarters of the country.

The violence came just ten days after the leaders of the alliance's factions met to coordinate resistance to Taleban, and to discuss setting up a Mazar-based coalition government as an alternative to the Taleban administration sitting in Kandahar and Kabul.

Taleban made two attempts to capture Mazar last year, in May and September. It was rebuffed with the loss of several thousand dead, largely by Hezb-i-Wahdat, which has since retained control of the city.

General Dostum was ousted from Afghanistan last May when his deputy, General Abdul Malik, made a secret alliance with Taleban. He returned from exile in Turkey in September, however, and now seems to want control of the city again.

The weekend violence, which began with gun fight-

ing but developed into exchanges of shells, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machinegun fire, spread from Mazar, 80 miles to the north of Mazar on the Uzbek border, which Hezb-i-Wahdat also took last year.

Hairston is General Dostum's principal entry point for arms and fuel supplies from Uzbekistan and regaining control of the town is essential if he is to re-establish his power base in Afghanistan.

The fighting highlights the shaky nature of the Northern Alliance, whose members are united only in their opposition to Taleban.

Their differences are likely to be put aside when the snows melt in the passes and the annual spring fighting season begins again. It also proves



Warlords fight for the north, writes James Fergusson in Mazar-i-Sharif

the hollowness of the talk of reconciliation at the meeting of the alliance in Mazar ten days ago.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the ousted Prime Minister who recently returned to Afghanistan from a year's exile in Iran, is a case in point. Last week he outlined to *The Times* a new plan for peace. This weekend his Hezb-i-Islami faction was reported to have sided with General Dostum in the city battle.

The city's international aid workers, who have returned only in small numbers since being evacuated in September, are again trying to negotiate a ceasefire so that they might escape to the airport.

The fighting was at its most intense in the northern part of the city where the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross are located. The street outside is now a front line. Half of its 12-strong staff are reported to be sheltering behind sandbags in the delegation office, while the other half are trapped in the residence across the road.

The two parties at first communicated by walkie-talkie, but all batteries are now dead and there has been no news from the residents since Sunday night.

General Dostum is believed to have taken control of the military airport to the west of the city. It is unclear who now controls the civil airport to the east. For the time being, no rescue aircraft can land.

"We will evacuate all non-essential staff as soon as it is practical," said a Red Cross spokesman. "The situation in Mazar remains unclear."

## Clergy 'not to be objects of desire'

Rome: An Italian guide for young priests advises them to beware of women seeking to make them "husband substitutes", and says good-looking clergymen must take care "not to turn female heads" (Richard Owen writes).

Published in the wake of scandals in the Roman Catholic Church involving priests — in one recent case, a bishop — who had violated the vow of celibacy, it has been written by Don Mario Delipini, 47.

The seminary rector urges prudence and firmness to avoid inadvertently becoming "objects of female desire". Priests are also urged not to succumb to worldly ambition, seeking high ecclesiastical office at the expense of humble but vital parish duties.

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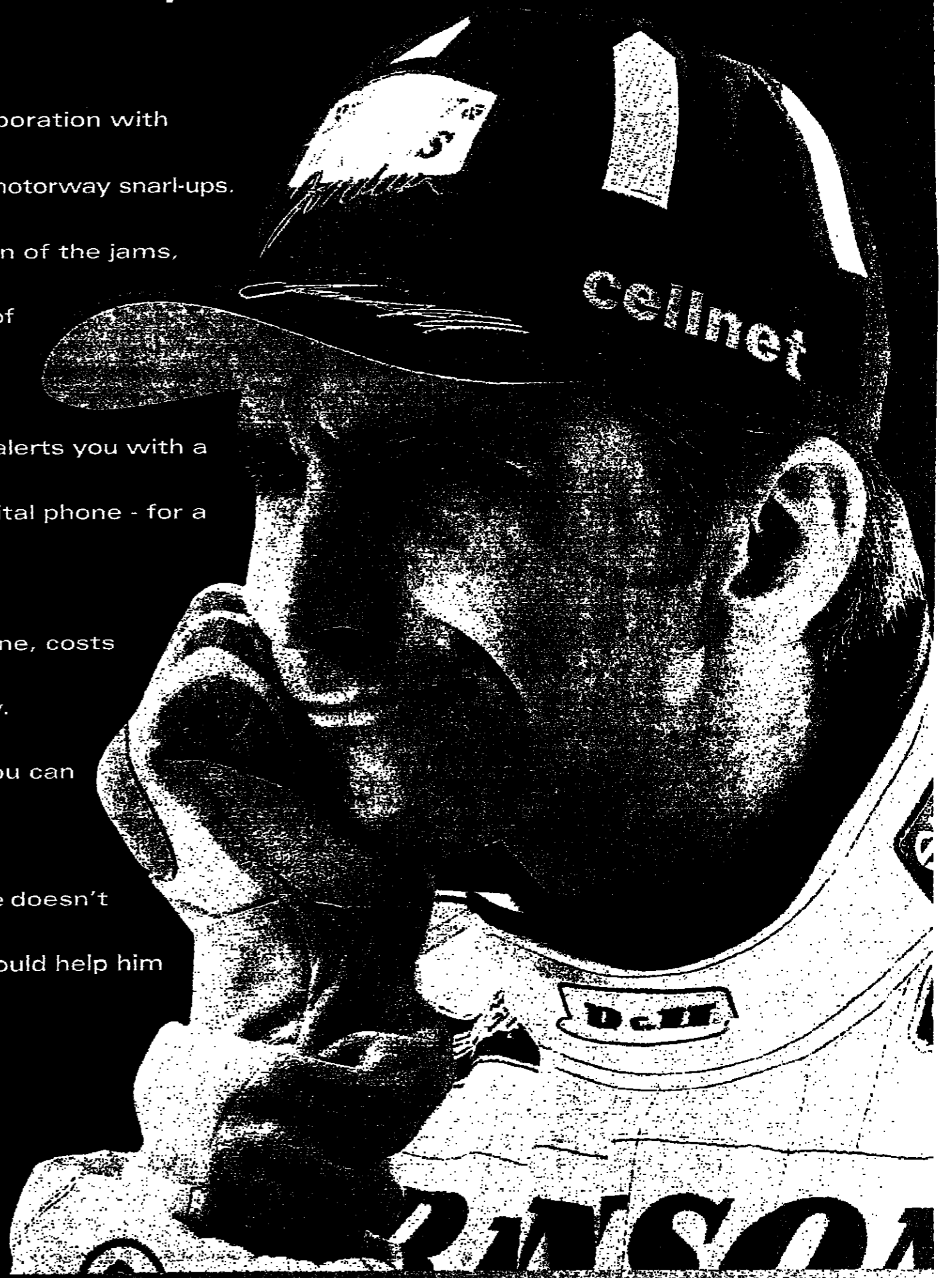
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NEWS IN BRIEF

US heroes at My Lai ceremony

My Lai Relatives and survivors of the 1968 massacre by US soldiers of 500 civilians in this Vietnamese hamlet yesterday marked the anniversary. Wreaths were placed at a monument and Hugh Thompson and Lawrence Colburn - who tried to halt the bloodbath - called for reconciliation and urged that the event never be forgotten.

Moro tribute

Rome: Politicians yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of the kidnapping of Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister, by laying wreaths at the abduction site.

Britons saved

Prisco, Colorado: Five balloonists, including Britons Maurice and Nicole Lewis, were rescued after landing in a gully in the Rockies at 11,000ft. (AP)

Migrants die

Algiers: At least ten North Africans attempting to reach Spain illegally were believed drowned after their boat sank in the Strait of Gibraltar. (AFP)

Site deaths

Chandigarh: The roof of an Indian medical college building under construction collapsed, killing two workers, injuring 40 and trapping dozens in rubble. (AP)

Smoke screen

Havana: Cuba, where anti-tobacco campaigns have made little headway, is to introduce a smoking ban on intercity buses from April 1. (Reuters)

Feminists turn on 'predator' Clinton

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LEADING American feminists, in a sharp change of tone, yesterday accused President Clinton of sexual assault after a loyal Democrat claimed publicly that he had fondled her at the doorway to the Oval Office.

In a dramatic volte-face by a constituency which has stood by Mr Clinton, Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organisation of Women, the country's most prominent feminist group, responded swiftly to a startling television interview with Kathleen Willey, 51, a former White House volunteer.

Mrs Willey, in halting and emotional language, described a visit to the Oval Office in 1993 during which she said the President suddenly kissed her on the lips, fondled her breasts and placed her hand on his erect penis. She said the purpose of the visit had been to ask for a job at the White House when her husband, Ed, also a Clinton friend, was accused of embezzling funds from clients. Mr Willey committed suicide the same day but she only learnt of his death after seeing Mr Clinton.

"This is not just sexual harassment. If it's true, it's sexual assault," Ms Ireland said. "He put his hand on her breast, he put her hand on his erection. It's unfathomable to me that the President would put a woman's hand on him in the White House ... it's illegal and really unconscionable."

If true, the allegations placed him in the ranks of "sexual predators". His actions had serious implications for every woman in the workplace, she added. Mr Clinton said last night he was "mystified and disappointed" by Mrs Willey's account, in which she looked directly at the cameras in branding the President a liar.

In his testimony for the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit, Mr Clinton said he may have kissed Mrs Willey on the forehead but denied any sexual act. "Nothing improper happened," he said last night. "I told the truth." But these denials merely seemed



Kathleen Willey during the interview in which she claimed Mr Clinton fondled her in the White House

to emphasise the public relations challenge that the Willey interview has created for the White House. Shown on the CBS documentary show 60 Minutes, the most popular public affairs programme on American television, the allegations may also prove a watershed in the various sexual scandals faced by Mr Clinton.

Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, said one party must have committed

perjury and described the allegations as "very serious".

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, was said to be preparing a special select committee of senior Republicans to examine a report on possible impeachment proceedings by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor. Under his statute, Mr Starr can send to Congress "substantial and credible" evidence as a basis for impeachment, and congressional staff believe this will happen within three months. While few believe Mr

Clinton will resign or be impeached, Republicans were buoyed by the interview.

For the majority of Americans, Mrs Willey appeared a more credible witness than Monica Lewinsky, the trainee alleged to have had an 18-month affair with Mr Clinton. Mrs Willey, initially a reluctant witness in the Jones case, said she had come forward because it was time to tell the truth. "I think too many lies are being told. Too many lives

to the heart of the investigation by Mr Starr into whether Mr Clinton attempted to obstruct justice or suborn witnesses in the Jones case.

Newsweek yesterday reported that Mr Landow had chartered a private plane to fly Mrs Willey from her home in Virginia to his Maryland estate last October, two months after she was subpoenaed to testify in the Jones case. According to those familiar with her testimony, she alleged that Mr Landow repeatedly asked her to say nothing about the presidential encounter and insisted that if she stuck to that story there could be no contradiction.

Mr Landow, who denied the claims, was also reported to have offered to fly Mrs Willey to New York for a Christmas shopping spree.

In her interview, Mrs Willey said she had also felt pressure from Robert Bennett, the President's lawyer. "We were together at some point before our court hearing and he mentioned that he had been at the White House and the President asked for me and told him that he thought the world of me," she said. "And, he said, 'Now this was not sexual harassment, was it?' and I didn't answer him ... If the President thought the world of me, why did he do what he did?"

She said she had told Mr Bennett of her intention to testify about the Oval Office incident and that he then gave her a warning to hire an experienced lawyer.

Her stature as a life-long Democrat who was not telling her story for money made it impossible last night for the White House to deny that Mrs Willey was part of any right-wing conspiracy or that she was motivated by financial gain.

Instead, Ann Lewis, the White House communications director, said Mrs Willey's story was contradicted by her apparent willingness later to work for Mr Clinton. "What I saw last night was someone who talked about being angry. Yet in 1996, when she was no longer associated with the President, she came to see me and said, 'I really want to work in this campaign.'"



Elizabeth Ward Gracen on Atlantic City beach the day after being crowned Miss America in 1981. She denies claims from a friend that Mr Clinton made sexual advances in the back of his limousine

President keeps the loyalty of a 'Miss America'

FROM BROWNEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

ON AT least one count President Clinton can breathe easily - Elizabeth Ward Gracen, a former Miss America, is vigorously refusing to respond to a subpoena from Paula Jones's lawyers on whether Mr Clinton sexually harassed her and offered her jobs in exchange for her silence.

Since December Ms Gracen, 37, has dodged the dragnet of subpoenas thrown out by Mrs Jones's lawyers, who are seeking corroboration of Mrs Jones's allegations that Mr Clinton made sexual advances to her and then proceeded to punish her by creating a "hostile work environment".

Ms Gracen, also a former Miss Arkansas, said: "I'm out of the country and I'm staying out of the country. I don't want to be a pawn in this whole ugly affair". She has kept on the move since leaving Little Rock in December, touching down in Las Vegas, New Jersey and, most recently, hopping between Caribbean islands.

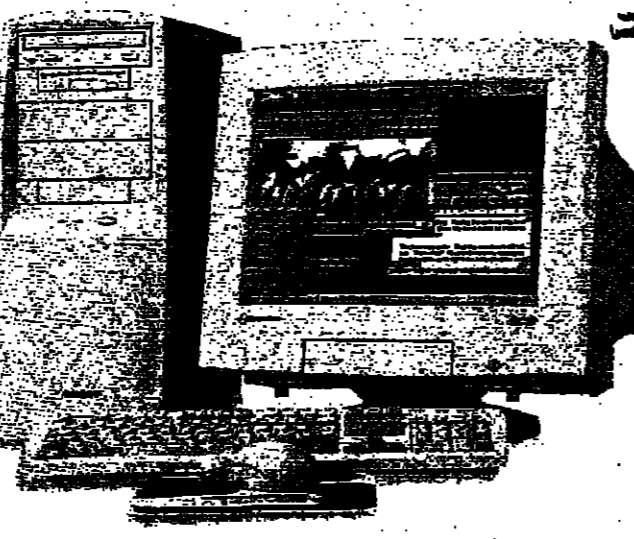
She has denied having a sexual relationship with Mr Clinton, but a girlfriend of hers has testified to Mrs Jones's lawyers that Ms Gracen complained that Mr Clinton, when Governor of Arkansas, made advances to her on the back seat of his limousine and that they later had sex.

The efforts by the Jones team to encourage Ms Gracen to speak about her allegations are a sign of their increasing difficulty in assembling their case that Mr Clinton engaged in a pattern of rewarding women who accepted his sexual advances with promotion or gifts.

Independent lawyers have commented on the flimsy nature of corroborating evidence in the 734 pages of documents filed by the Jones team in court on Friday. Before the scheduled start of the trial on May 27, District Judge Susan Webber Wright is due to rule on Mr Clinton's motion to throw out the case entirely.

This is not just sexual harassment. If this is true, it's sexual assault. It's unconscionable

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# Vatican apology to Jews 'rings hollow'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican yesterday released its long-awaited "definitive statement" condemning anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism and repenting for Roman Catholic passivity during the Nazi Holocaust.

"We wish to turn awareness of past sins into a firm resolve to build a new future in which there will be no more anti-Judaism among Christians or anti-Christian sentiment among Jews, but a shared mutual respect," it said.

Dr Jonathan Sacks, Britain's Chief Rabbi, welcomed the statement as "a step forward", but said: "I think it will take the Catholic Church a long time to come to terms with its teachings on the Jews and the effect these teachings had during the Holocaust years." He added that many would be disappointed there was no direct reference to "the many charges of inaction" by Pope Pius XII.

Some Jewish reaction was sceptical, however, with Abraham Foxman, head of the

Anti-Defamation League, saying the Vatican document "rings hollow... it is an apology for Pius XII and the Church," he said.

Yitzhak Minervi, a former Israeli diplomat in Rome, said the statement avoided specific blame, "dumping responsibility only on some [unnamed] Christians without naming them... it leaves the Church and its institutions spotless".



Cardinal Edward Cassidy, left, presenting the landmark document yesterday, and Pope Pius XII

The document says the Vatican deeply regrets the "errors and failures of sons and daughters of the Church" who failed to save Jews from the "horrible genocide" of the Nazi death camps.

However, it controversially exonerates Pope Pius XII (1939-58) from the accusation that he was pro-German and turned a blind eye to persecution, declaring that his diplomatic efforts behind the scenes were "publicly acknowledged by Jewish organisations and personalities".

In a preface to the 14-page statement, the Pope said the Millennium was an occasion for Catholics to "purify their hearts through repentance of past errors and infidelities and examine themselves on the responsibility which they, too, bear for the evils of our time". He hoped that the statement would "shape a future in which the unspeakable iniquity of the Shoah [Hebrew for the Holocaust] will never again be possible".

The document was drawn up by the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, headed by Cardinal Edward Cassidy of Australia, who called it an act of repentance. It admits Nazi persecution may have been "made easier by the anti-Jewish prejudices embedded in some Christian minds and hearts".

Leading article, page 19



Latvian SS veterans marching through the capital, Riga, yesterday. Many of them claim they were not Nazi sympathisers but were motivated by hostility to the Soviet Union after Stalin's takeover of their country

## SS veterans' rally in Latvia triggers Russian protests

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

SEVERAL hundred veterans of a Latvian unit in Hitler's SS yesterday marched through the capital, Riga, prompting counter-demonstrations and causing further damage to the already strained relations with Russia.

In one of the most blatant pro-Nazi rallies since the end of the Second World War, more than 500 former members of the Latvian Legion of the Waffen-SS marched through the capital's old city and laid wreaths at the Freedom Monument. The marchers were greeted with applause by some spectators and shouts of "fascists" and "murderers" by opponents. Although there were some scuffles, no serious incidents were reported by the police.

About 140,000 Latvians volunteered or were conscripted to fight alongside German forces in 1943. Many veterans insist that, far from being Nazi sympathisers, they were motivated by anti-Soviet sentiments, after Stalin's brutal takeover of Latvia in 1940. They said that the reunion was intended to remember the estimated 50,000 Latvian Legion members who were killed in action or who perished later in Soviet prison camps. However, the sight of un-

apologetic veterans, many of them wearing their old SS uniforms, marching with the permission of the authorities through Riga caused fury elsewhere. Anti-Nazi campaigners pointed out that in the closing days of the war the Legion included units that were involved in the mass murder of Jews. In Moscow, the Foreign Ministry said the Legion was "marked with the blood and suffering" of thousands of people. "Having given an oath to Hitler and the German Reich, Latvian divisions participated in punitive operations and in 1944 they were joined by Latvian police battalions, the notorious Arais team and other units that destroyed scores of thousands of Jews, Russians and Belorussians," it said.

"The civilised world has long passed its verdict on the deeds of the SS during the Second World War."

The angry reaction followed another protest earlier this month by Moscow after Latvian riot police in Riga dispersed a crowd of ethnic Russian pensioners protesting about the high cost of living. About 700,000 Russian-speakers, nearly a third of the country's population, remain stateless persons in Latvia.

## Chechen commandos fail to free Britons

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A RESCUE mission to free two British hostages failed yesterday when a Chechen anti-terrorist team fought a brief but bloody battle with hostage-takers outside Grozny, the capital of the separatist Russian region.

A commando and a kidnaper were killed and eight were injured during the exchange near the town of Urus Martan, where rescuers were forced to withdraw for fear of

harming the British captives. The fate of Camilla Carr and Jon James, two British aid workers seized by gunmen last summer, was at the centre of talks in London last week with President Maskhadov, the Chechen leader. He promised to help to win their release.

London: Baroness Thatcher's office denied yesterday that she was to visit Chechnya. President Maskhadov said in Grozny that the former Prime Minister had agreed to the trip when he met her in London. (Reuters)

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# Li Peng loses face as 200 vote against him

FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINA'S hardline outgoing Prime Minister, Li Peng, was elected chairman of the legislature yesterday, but 200 delegates embarrassed the leader most closely associated with the 1989 Tiananmen Square killings by voting against him. Almost 3,000 delegates cast their ballots in large red boxes in the Great Hall of the People. The main television news did not mention the number of votes against Mr Li, who will oversee the passage of laws through the National People's Congress. "It wasn't a humiliation, but when you consider how the Communist Party has tried in recent months to bring every-one into line it was a loss of face for Mr Li," one envoy said. "There is clearly still some resentment about the past."

The congress also confirmed the position of Hu Jintao, 55, as heir apparent to China's leadership, electing him to the formerly ceremonial post of Vice-President. Diplomats here said it was



Li: still resented over Tiananmen massacre

unlikely that the congress would become more liberal as a result of Mr Li's election. It had appeared to be trying to shake off its rubber-stamp image. Mr Li, 69, the only candidate for the post, won 2,616 votes. In addition to the 200 who voted against, there were 126 abstentions.

Mr Li, who was obliged by the Constitution to stand down after ten years as Prime Minister, remains number two in the party hierarchy and is a key ally of President Jiang Zemin. In addition to Mr Li's

image problem, concern over the economy and dissatisfaction over the removal of his predecessor, Qiao Guo, whom many felt tried to strengthen parliament's role, may have added to the "no" vote.

Mr Jiang was re-elected head of state and to the top military job and is no longer seen as a transitional figure, or first among equals in the leadership. "He is now above politics," one envoy said.

It was Mr Li who, in fierce tones still remembered by many Chinese who saw him on television, declared martial law, which ultimately led to troops being sent into Tiananmen Square.

Today Mr Jiang must nominate his Prime Minister for endorsement by the congress. Zhu Rongji, 69, the economic chief and third-ranking party leader, is almost certain to get the job.



Lionel Jospin after regional elections in Cingegabelle, southwest France. Le Figaro said the results were a personal victory for him

# Polls boost Jospin's presidential hopes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE presidential hopes of Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister of France, have been raised a crucial notch by elections on Sunday in which the Left seized control of more than half the 22 key regional councils. M Jospin's alliance of Socialists, Communists and Greens was poised to take power in at least 15 regions, after winning 40 per cent of the vote, compared with just 34 per cent for the centre-right coalition. "Jospin has won one stage in the long race to the Elysée Palace," France Soir observed. Presidential elections are due to take place in 2002. Even the conservative Le Figaro described the result as "first and foremost a personal victory for Lionel Jospin" and "a Waterloo" for the Gaullist and centre-right parties.

M Jospin noted that the election marked the first time in recent memory that voters had backed the ruling party, and his supporters insisted that the ballot represented an endorsement of his policies for cutting the working week and reducing unemployment by state intervention. The election signalled another setback for the Gaullist President Chirac, whose disastrous decision to call legislative elections last year left him

sharing power with M Jospin in an uncomfortable Left-Right "cohabitation". The strong showing by the Left makes it unlikely that the President will risk calling another parliamentary election in the short term.

M Jospin said he was encouraged by the regional elections, but his critics were quick to point out that the results hardly amounted to a "blank cheque" for the Left and fell short of the landslide predicted by the Prime Minister's more gung-ho supporters.

The polls, however, were less a victory for the Left than another condemnation of the Centre-Right, whose "seven deadly sins" were listed by Le Figaro: "Chronic disunity, lack of debate, exhaustion, refusal to embrace market reforms, ideological fatigue, hesitation and every sort of compromise."

M Chirac's supporters have suggested merging the Gaullist RPR party with the centrist UDF in a single political unit. Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist leader, however, has flatly rejected the idea, proving that unity is still a distant goal for the Opposition.

The National Front, after winning between 15.4 and 15.9 per cent of the vote, its highest score in 26 years, is in a strong position to play kingmaker.

◀ The Socialist leader has won a stage in race to the Elysée ▶

# Gandhi tightens grip on Congress in power game

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SONIA GANDHI tightened her hold over India's Congress Party yesterday after being unanimously elected leader of its parliamentary wing, turning the organisation into a Gandhi family stronghold once more. She is not an MP, another peculiarity in a bizarre string of political events.

The party's top policy-making body had to change its rules to enable her to be both parliamentary chairwoman and party president, demonstrating that nothing can stand in the way of her crusade to secure control of the 115-year-old organisation. If the incoming coalition Government collapses, she could emerge as Prime Minister.

The post of parliamentary chairperson has been unfilled since it was held by Mrs Gandhi's late mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, for whom it was created in 1977. The dynasty is now firmly back on the political scene: the Italian-born Mrs Gandhi's daughter, Priyanka, 26, is expected to take over leadership of the Congress youth wing.

Congress is due to elect working parliamentary leaders in both houses of parliament, and they will have to pay obeisance to Mrs Gandhi to survive. Sharad Pawar, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, is likely to be floor leader in the Lok Sabha (lower house). Manmohan Singh, a

respected former Finance Minister, may be chosen in the Rajya Sabha (upper house).

The pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) began drawing up its legislative and economic programme yesterday as it prepares to take office after a swearing-in ceremony on Thursday. Its Government will have to submit itself to a confidence vote within ten days, which it will almost certainly survive by persuading one or two important regional parties to abstain.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, sworn in as Prime Minister on Sunday night as head of an 18-party BJP-led coalition, will not push any of the policies of his party's hardline wing. His deputy will be Lal Krishna Advani, regarded as a hardliner.

One of the Government's likely first moves is to increase defence spending, which has declined every year in real terms since 1991. Referring to Pakistan, the party claims India faces "grave challenges to its integrity and security".

□ Woman to hang: A housewife will be hanged on April 6 in the first death sentence handed out to a woman since independence 50 years ago. The Pioneer newspaper reported. Last week, northern the Allahabad High Court dismissed the appeal of Ram Shri, 37, against her sentence for murdering her uncle in a family feud. (AFP)



Mrs Gandhi with Sitaram Kesri, former party chief

# Ashdown to testify at war crimes court

BY JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN is to take the unusual step of giving evidence to the United Nations tribunal investigating war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

The Liberal Democrat leader will travel to The Hague on Thursday to testify before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which is investigating allegations of "ethnic cleansing" and other crimes during the Balkan conflict in the early 1990s.

It is rare for a prominent politician to give evidence to the tribunal. Most are eye-witnesses, soldiers, diplomats and aid workers. Officials at

Mr Ashdown's office confirmed that he was due to give evidence, but could not give details because the court had not established whether the session would be public or in camera.

However, it is understood that Mr Ashdown will give evidence in the trial of General Thodor Blaskic. He is charged with crimes against humanity on Muslims in central Bosnia between 1992 and 1994 when he was a colonel commanding Bosnian Croat militia forces.

The tribunal alleges that the general led "ethnic cleansing" campaigns through the Lasva Valley, which runs north and west of Sarajevo. He denies the charges.

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# When sleep becomes a killer

## The Sleep Solution

In the third extract from *The Sleep Solution*, Nigel Ball and Nick Hough discuss sleep's fatal risks

Sleep disorders kill. Several studies have shown that, over a five or ten-year period, people who have poor sleep are more likely to die early than those who have good sleep. Furthermore, the best predictor of death in one group studied was the number of hours of sleep each person obtained: both too few and too many hours of sleep proved to be unhealthy.

One reason for this mortality rate is that disrupted sleep intensifies problems with the heart and circulation. Up to three times the normal rate of strokes and five times the normal rate of heart attacks occur in people with poor sleep. This is not just among the old or disabled; younger people are similarly affected.

Why does sleep, or lack of sleep, affect the heart and circulation in this way? First, many people have poor sleep because of breathing problems such as snoring or sleep apnoea. As we've discussed, these problems increase the blood pressure and damage the heart.

Secondly, sleep disruption is stressful and stress reactions take their toll. So even those who just sleep poorly, without breathing problems, may have higher cholesterol and blood-pressure levels than would otherwise be expected. Finally, when our sleep is disrupted we lose our restful, restorative eight hours a night. This is almost like growing older as up to one-and-a-half times the normal rate — probably as good a reason as any for sorting out your sleep before it's too late.



Photographer Ferdinando Scianna's vision of sleep. Modern stresses have made eight hours of rest a rare luxury

A recent Gallup poll in the United States showed that about a third of the population have problems with sleep. Only about one in five people has good, untroubled sleep.

Who has never had insomnia? For some it's a difficulty with falling asleep, for others staying asleep or getting back to sleep. It is the most common sleep problem and it affects about a third of us each year in some form or another. One in seven people has insomnia that is severe enough to affect their lives or health, and one in 11 has insomnia almost every night for more than six months at a time.

Women have insomnia more often than men, and poor people are more likely to have insomnia than rich people. It is a particular problem for those who have been abused, or who have suffered severe trauma. For some people it's a harmless but frustrating problem, for others it leads to poor health and a miserable life.

The second most common sleep disorder is insufficient sleep syndrome. Not only is this a recognised disorder, but many experts believe that almost all of us would do better with more sleep. We think here of mothers with small children, and busy professionals — but most schoolchildren, young professionals and elderly people also need more sleep.

About 10 per cent of men and 5 per cent of women have breathing problems while they sleep. These range from harmless light snoring to complete pauses in breathing, which are known as apnoeas. These pauses can last from a

few seconds to a couple of minutes and, at worst, occur hundreds of times each hour. With each pause there is a partial or complete obstruction to breathing, leading to a drop in the oxygen content of the blood and hence to less oxygen reaching the brain. The body reacts quickly, slowing the heart and dropping the blood pressure.

As the obstruction is breached (often with a snort or a gasp from the sleeper), there is a short arousal as the heart races and the blood pressure rises in an attempt to restore oxygen supplies as quickly as possible.

Over time this obstructive sleep apnoea leads to extensive sleeplessness while awake, and such health problems as high blood pressure, heart attacks or even strokes. The brain may be irreparably damaged: it's just not possible for it to recover from years of depleted oxygen for several hours a day. The partial obstructions to breathing that occur with intermittent "crecendo" snoring may also be harmful.

Why is it difficult to breathe when we're asleep? There's no

### HOW TO AVOID FEELING DROWSY

ARE YOU too sleepy to do things safely? Is your life a misery because of tiredness, sleepiness or fatigue? Do you make mistakes at work? You should know what to do if you are too sleepy to function safely. First, you need to be able to recognise unwelcome sleepiness. Do any of the following apply to you?

- Sleep attacks: sleep, or struggling with sleepiness, that interferes with tasks or activities in which you are an active participant.
- Passive sleepiness: sleep or drowsiness when you're relaxing or not particularly active. Do you tend to fall asleep in front of the television or reading to the children?
- Detrimental consequences: regardless of how sleepy you feel, or of the other indicators of sleepiness, do you make more mistakes than you should, or drift in the lane when you are driving? Have you had accidents or near accidents? Do you put off doing things because of sleepiness?
- Too much "compensating" sleep: do you compensate by sleeping at almost every opportunity? Or take naps more than a couple of times a month? Do you sleep for more than eight or nine hours a night? Do you "catch up" on your sleep every weekend?
- Masking sleepiness: this can be done by using stimulants such as coffee, by listening to loud music or by standing rather than sitting.
- If you are beginning to feel sleepy, do what you can to become more alert. This might include:
  - Planning a nap before it becomes too dangerous.
  - Becoming active — moving, talking or singing.
  - Avoiding boredom or monotony by doing something different, such as talking to someone or listening to the radio.
  - Cooling down — open the windows or turn up the air conditioning.
  - Seeking moderately bright light.
  - Eating, preferably small quantities of relatively plain food.

People respond to each of these stimuli in different ways, and what wakes one person might make another sleepier. Furthermore, stimulation is no good if it is too distracting. And becoming more alert masks sleepiness only for a while, it does not eliminate it.

■ Nap therapy: a system of using short naps to combat unwelcome sleepiness can be used instead of medication for some sleep disorders.

■ Keep your naps short — 15 to 30 minutes of sleep will probably be most effective. You should wake up feeling refreshed and alert.

■ Allow enough time to wake up fully after your nap before you do anything that requires your focused attention or concentration.

■ Organise your surroundings to help with the nap therapy. Keep a pillow and blanket in your car, for instance. And is there a place where you could lie down to sleep at work before you commute home? Perhaps a reclining armchair at home would be a good investment.

Caffeine and loud music merely mask sleepiness

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## Cannabis casualties

This Sunday at the George and Dragon in Cley, a village in the heart of David Prior's North Norfolk constituency, the conversation was about the weather. A Sunday paper's eulogy about the pub selected as one of the most romantic in the country — and the bird-life on the marshes. Their MP's admission on the BBC that he was a regular pot-smoker until his late twenties passed largely without comment.

Norfolk people tend to live their own lives, and allow others to do as they think best. Mr Prior is more likely to be judged on the enthusiasm he displays as their MP than on his taste in narcotics; and they are unlikely to judge any of the medical implications in his long statement calling for a change in approach to the taking of cannabis, and support for a royal commission to inquire into the practice.

Restrictions on the medical prescription of cannabis in its various forms seem hard to excuse. In the past it was extremely useful when administered as a tincture, or as an extract in pills, as an anodyne sedative in terminal cases, or in the treatment of Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, in which it is a good muscle relaxant; and even glaucoma.

Cannabis is said to reduce nausea and other side-effects of chemotherapy; and its narcotic effect, when part of a cocktail of drugs for therapy in late-stage cancer, is especially useful as, unlike morphine, it does not cause constipation or loss of appetite.

It is noteworthy that the British Pharmaceutical Codex of 1934 contains a great deal more about the medical uses of extracts of cannabis than does *Martindale's Extra Pharmacopoeia*, the present

standard textbook. There need be no reason why patients who need cannabis should have to smoke it, as it could still be prepared as a tincture or pill. It is now possible to isolate the potent constituents, which have a therapeutic effect on those which cause some less desirable results.

David Prior sees two dangers to the younger generation in the criminalisation of cannabis: the fact that it brings them into contact with clever, rich, violent and persuasive dealers; and the risk that the drug could be adulterated. Yet Mr Prior, when discussing the hazards to the nation's children and grandchildren, misses what is probably the most serious of all the dangers of cannabis: its ability to potentiate schizophrenia in those who inherit a susceptibility to this group of diseases.

SANE, the charity which offers support to patients with acute psychiatric illnesses and their carers, is explicit in its advice: "We do not yet know enough about its causes to say how schizophrenia can be prevented, but one specific factor is important: drug use."

SANE continues by pointing out that cannabis can cause hallucinations and paranoid delusions similar to those found in schizophrenia. The psychotic effects induced by these drugs do not always clear up readily, and there is some evidence that they may trigger a prolonged schizophrenic illness. In addition,

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The Annual General Meeting of Bayer Aktiengesellschaft will be held on 30th April, 1998 in Cologne. Payment of a Dividend of 38% for the year 1997 will be proposed.

Copies of the Company's Annual Report for 1997 in English will be available from SBC Warburg Dillon Read.

Under Section 125 of the German Companies Act, the Board of Management is only obliged to provide information on proposals and nominations that may be made by shareholders if the parties concerned prove their standing as shareholders in good time.

March 17, 1998  
The Board of Management of Bayer Aktiengesellschaft  
Dr. Schneider Werning

United Kingdom Shareholders who wish to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting should by 22nd April, 1998, inform SBC Warburg Dillon Read, Paying Agency, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PP, who will make the necessary arrangements on their behalf.

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Either women have made remarkable headway towards genuine equality, or else they have achieved significant reforms but still made little real impact on the bedrock of prejudice

# Footloose or oppressed?

**O**n my son's classroom door a green poster urged us to celebrate International Women's Week. Lewisham Council, it said, was marking the occasion with a Herstory Workshop. It was clearly a successful poster, because I found myself brooding, on the way home, about where we are, herstory-wise, as we celebrate, among other things, 70 years as fully enfranchised grown-ups.

Suppose one were to take a handful of newspaper stories from the past few weeks and try to extract from them a snapshot of the female condition in late-Nineties Britain. What might one find? Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, executed probably the most apologetic flourish out of an interview ever recorded when Jenni Murray, the *Woman's Hour* presenter, asked whether her position was being undermined by her own Cabinet colleagues. "Sorry, Jenni, sorry, can't," the England Cricket Board was found guilty of sexual discrimination of a particular

Feminist Ann Oakley believes the war between the sexes is raging as strongly now as it was 30 years ago. Interview by Jane Shilling

disagreeable kind. Martha Gellhorn died. She smoked, drank and minded about her looks into extreme old age. She also loathed domesticity and said she had felt loneliest when married. The Carlton Club voted to think about possibly admitting women.

What is odd about the conclusions that one might draw from this admittedly inconsequential collection is that they are so very fluid. On a bad day, you might feel they demonstrated the impossibility of women making real political progress. (One might also reflect on the terrible propensity of women to go "Sorry, sorry," as though that made anything better.) To this one might add some observations on the ineradicable dinosaurism of men — whether their scales are attractively concealed by new Labour tailoring or horribly revealed beneath their club ties. And conclude that it is all

very well if you are Martha Gellhorn. But what of your chances if, like most of us, you are not endowed with four times the talent and guts of the man at the neighbouring desk?

Then again, looked at on a sunny day, the position might seem brighter. Two cheers for Harriet Harman for sticking to a deeply unpopular brief. Three cheers for Martha Gellhorn for breaking a path down which so many talented younger women have been able to follow. And as for the dinosaurs — well they couldn't stop Mrs Pankhurst, could they?

The thing about these opposing views, however, is that it matters a good deal which is correct. Either women have made remarkable headway in this century towards a genuine equality with men, or else they have achieved significant reforms but still made very little real impact on the bedrock of

prejudice and inequity on which rest all the important structures of our national life. Not being sure of one's place in the scheme of things is profoundly unsettling. And another potent source of confusion is the fact that, although the general public awareness — even at quite primitive levels — that "sexism" is a bad thing might lead one to conclude that "we are all feminists now". On the other hand, a generation of young women that undoubtedly benefited from its mothers' militancy now finds itself beginning to question the worth of some of those hard-won victories.

Well, no, of course not. But surely the many serious problems that remain are those of poor resources, lack of opportunity, social and economic deprivation. These are problems of people.

In one sense, says Oakley, "It doesn't matter if we have a movement that calls itself feminism. What matters is that people should address the issue of social exclusion in terms of women." Then I wonder what she thinks of the present Government's attempt, for example, to get single mothers back to work.

"I find what this Government is doing disappointing," says Oakley. "In that I don't think anyone is looking at the social policies and thinking 'How are these going to impact on the lives of ordinary women out there?' [These 'ordinary' women crop up again in our interview, when Oakley remarks: "If you interview ordinary women today, quite a lot of what they say sounds very like what feminists might say" — a turn of phrase that sheds, one may think, an interesting light on her claim that attacks on feminism are invalid because made by "relatively privileged middle-class women"].

Abandoning, for the moment, the question of feminism's continuing existence, we move on to the war between men and women, still raging, Oakley feels, as strongly as it was 30 years ago. "We know that the peak period for couples to quarrel is when they have young children. Until then, young men and women can more or less pretend that they are equal. Then they become very unequal. Women ought to be able to make the same kinds of choices as men."

"But we can't," I say. Like my contemporaries, I have never had to battle against sexual discrimination. Which must mean — mustn't it? — that Oakley's generation of feminists won some very important battles. But it rather takes the shine off the campaign medals if the gallant combatants refuse to build on the fruits of their victories. There are moments, reading *Who's Afraid of Feminism*, when the image that came into my mind was of Mikhail Gorbachev, desperately trying to introduce reform in the teeth of implacable opposition from the old devotees of Comrade Stalin.

Now, I am hardly complacent about my position. Like hundreds of thousands of other women, I must somehow daily pull off the exhausting high-wire act of full-time professional by day, full-time parent at every other moment. Who I am, I cannot quite recall. I wouldn't say no to

What is needed is some kind of guide. And Ann Oakley is extremely well-qualified to help. A distinguished academic (she is professor of sociology and social policy and director of the Social Science Research Unit at the University of London Institute of Education), she is the author of an imposing list of publications. The latest, co-edited with her fellow-academic, Juliet Mitchell, is called *Who's Afraid of Feminism?* The book consists of a collection of essays, of which the feminist commentator Joan Smith remarked: "The judgments tend to be sound, but are couched in language that does not excite the reader." So off I go to the University of London Institute of Education to ask Professor Oakley if she will tell me who is afraid of feminism, and in



Oakley: girls' guide

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## Why we all know it's St Patrick's Day

The Irish know how to have a better time than the rest of us

**W**hen Gerry Adams wakes up this morning, he might reflect that however snail-like his political progress might be, there is infinitely less resistance to Ireland as a cultural force. Valentine's Day apart, today's St Patrick's celebration is the only saint's day that the world seems ready to recognise en masse.

There is hardly a major town in England now without an Irish theme pub, where aspiring Shane MacGowans and Yeates can sit as an Australian barman pulls the pints and Van Morrison plays on the juke box. It would have to be a truly lousy ceilidh band that had no gig tonight.

Since 1992, Guinness alone has built 1,600 Irish theme pubs in 45 countries, including China. It recently shipped out craftsmen to build one in Novosibirsk, Siberia, in time for the locals to toast St Patrick in the proper fashion. Naturally, it is called The Shamrock.

Dublin is now a romantic weekend destination to rival Paris. Who knows if some Liam Neeson or Sinead O'Connor might not emerge out of the mist as harp music and Joyce sougns through the air? The Irish, it seems, know how to have a better time than the rest of us.

**There is hardly a major town without an Irish theme pub**

In the United States St Patrick's Day has been a big deal ever since the Irish flooded over there in the mid-19th century. New York's celebrated St Patrick's Day parade may be in remission after demands from Irish gays that they march together rather than dispersed among the straights, but in the mountains of Massachusetts they will still be dyeing the ski slopes green today.

This year St Patrick's Day coincides with the start of the Cheltenham Festival, a week when the Irish colonise a corner of Gloucestershire and Black Velvets run even faster than the horses. Since just after the Second World War, when Vincent O'Brien's horses won each Gold Cup between 1948 and 1950, the Irish have been coming, led by their priests, who bury the collection plates under their soutanes and pray "Holy Mary Mother of Grace, may Cottage Rake win this race".

Over the past fortnight, Guinness has bombarded British television viewers with an advertising campaign centred on the question "What

will you be doing for St Patrick's Day?" Among the bemused answers, one thing alone is sure they will be drinking the black stuff.

Beamish, another stout maker, has been cranking up its television advertising, as has Caffrey's Irish Ale, which mixes images of young men drinking with shots of romantic Ireland. The point is that for all the urban sophistication of the modern young Irish they have not lost their emerald-tinted romanticism. *Brimful of Asha*, the pop song that accompanies the advertisement, is high in the charts on the back of it.

In films too, Ireland seems to stand for cool. *Good Will Hunting*, a multiple Oscar-nominated film, centres on a young, rebellious Irish-American boy, who happens to be a genius. Not since Oscar Wilde paid tribute to himself by walking up Oxford High Street clutching a lily has there been such a paeon to floppy-haired, effortless Irish-born kudos.

For all its success abroad, however, the Irish nostalgia boom sits uneasily in Ireland, a country seemingly bent on striking its identity into that of a common European one.

Ireland is running hard to escape its very recent past of Roman Catholic hegemony and backward ruralism, where the people were among the worst educated in Europe and divorce and abortion were political taboos.

Yet the image of Ireland which continues to sell abroad is the traditional one of *shillelaghs* and russet-haired maidens. It is the picture of Ireland painted by Eamon de Valera in his 1943 St Patrick's Day speech: "A land whose countryside would be bright with cosy homesteads, whose fields and villages would be joyous with the sounds of industry, with the romping of sturdy children, the contests of athletic youths and the laughter of comely maidens, whose firesides would be forums for the wisdom of serene old age."

It is often said that the most English thing about St George's Day is how little attention the English pay to it. St Patrick's Day, by contrast, is all noise and bluster, drinking and *craic*, a celebration of a culture very much of the moment.

PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

# Why aren't we revolting, Mr Brown?

Anatole Kaletsky on a Budget that will be cruel to let us be kind

I may seem a small thing, but to my mind the single most important measure likely to be announced in today's Budget is the £40 million of new lottery funding for the abolition of museum charges. I rarely go to museums; in fact, my interest in art and antiquities is hardly sufficient to sustain dinner party small talk. And when I do visit museums to introduce some culture into my children's lives, I can scarcely claim that the entrance fees make a serious dent in my personal fortunes; the cost of museum charges on these outings usually amounts to less than my spending on taxi fares, ice-creams and junk food. Why, then, do I attach more importance to this drop in the ocean of public finance than to the billions Gordon Brown will be spending on Welfare to Work programmes or to the tens of billions he will be shifting between national insurance, child benefits and income tax?

fundamental difference between a Tory and a Labour Government. Labour believes in the positive virtue of public services, available to all regardless of income, and financed directly or indirectly by the State. But the post-Thatcher Tories have created the impression that they see a public service as, at best, a candidate for privatisation and, at worst, an unnecessary evil.

Mr Brown's Budget will win public approval if it shows that a Labour Government can find money for genuine public services and is able to spend it effectively and wisely. Although middle-class voters will mostly pay more, they will not engage in a detailed calculation of the financial costs and benefits to them of this or any other Budget, as long as they are convinced that the Government will improve the public services they value highly. For most that will mean health and education, but for some it will mean public transport, scientific research or even free access to museums. To explain what I mean, let me move from apparently trivial middle-class perks to the measures that will form the real core of today's Budget. It is likely to entail the biggest redistributive shift in Britain's tax system since Nigel Lawson cut the top rate of income tax from 60 to 40 per cent in 1988. This shift, however, will be in the opposite direction. If, as expected, Mr Brown follows the main suggestion of the Taylor committee on welfare reform and raises the national insurance contribution paid by employers from 10 per cent to 12.2 per cent, he will be redirecting roughly £6 billion from the companies that employ Britain's high earners to those that offer low-wage jobs. While middle-class taxpayers will not initially notice this change on their paystips, the long-term economic effects will be equivalent to an increase of 2 to 3 per cent in the standard and higher rates of income tax.

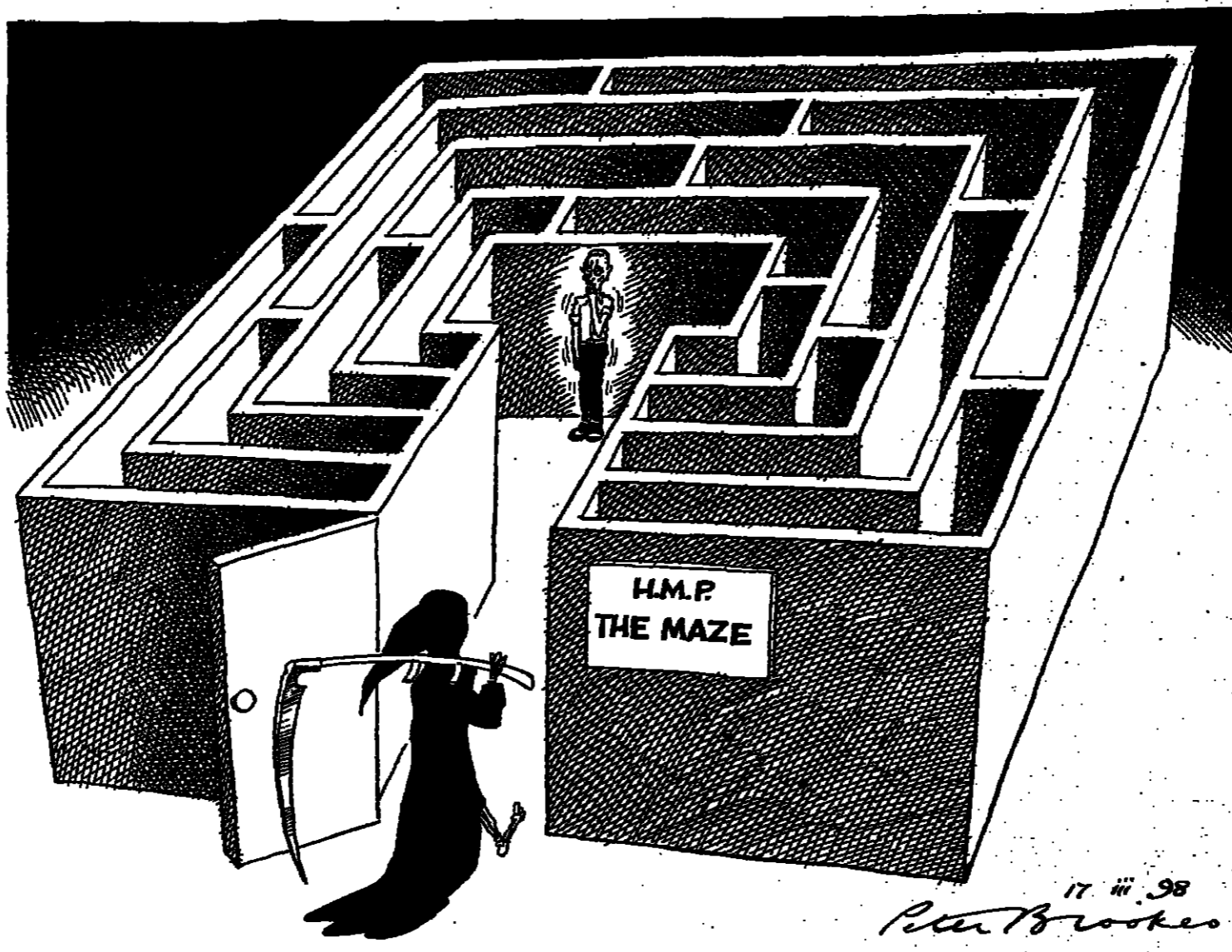
### Perks are the only way to keep middle-class support

Mr Brown follows the main suggestion of the Taylor committee on welfare reform and raises the national insurance contribution paid by employers from 10 per cent to 12.2 per cent, he will be redirecting roughly £6 billion from the companies that employ Britain's high earners to those that offer low-wage jobs. While middle-class taxpayers will not initially notice this change on their paystips, the long-term economic effects will be equivalent to an increase of 2 to 3 per cent in the standard and higher rates of income tax.

On top of this huge shift in the incidence of national insurance, the Chancellor may decide to end mortgage tax relief as well as introducing taxes on child benefits received by people on high incomes. This income redistribution could equal the one proposed in John Smith's ill-fated 1992 Budget plan. Almost certainly, the effective tax increases on above-average incomes will be comparable to the ones imposed by Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke in 1993 and 1994. Yet there is not the slightest sign that today's Budget will trigger a middle-class revolt.

This quisquillia cannot, I believe, be put down simply to the apathy or gullibility of Britain's middle classes. It will not take long for people on high incomes to realise that they will lose more financially from today's Budget than they gain. But why should that matter? Politics is not the same as accountancy. That was the most fundamental lesson the Tories seemed unable to learn.

Secondly, and more importantly, he has crystallised the



# Anatomy of a picture

When a Chancellor hijacks a toddler's birthday, cynicism sinks to a new low

It's tough being three. You can't just mess about, like when you were two. You have responsibilities to your public, contacts to keep sweet, photo calls to get through, candles to blow out. You may not feel like facing the flashbulbs, but you have to put a good face on it and not ask the awkward questions: such as who are those strange men with big black cameras? Pee Eh? Daley Male? What sort of names are those? And why do they keep calling your name? And why has Mummy asked these other funny men to your party, the ones with bleeping things on their belts? None of them seems to know anything; they keep referring to the Teletubby on your mug as Tinky Winky when any fool can see it is pink and therefore Po. And what did that man with the notebook mean when he muttered to the cameraman that the whole thing looked pretty Laa Laa to him?

And why should you smile, just because Mummy's friend Sarah keeps pushing the corners of your mouth up with her fingers? When they said that Gordon was coming to your birthday, with Charlie Wheel your spin-doctor, you thought it might be Gordon the Green Engine and one of the Fat Controller's engineers. Instead there's this uncley sort of man with big black eyebrows, who insists on grabbing your cake as if he'd made it himself, and Charlie turns out to be called Whelan, and to be just a nervous man with a leather jacket and a coloured tie who keeps saying "Yup, yup" into a pretend phone with no wire on it.

OK then, let's get this over with. Blow! Damn, missed one. The eyebrow man says I am 33.3 per cent below target and that this is unacceptable within the bounds of current Eurocave convergence criteria. Oh hell, I think I might be going to wet myself.

welcome the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay, to be photographed with him so that they could look like loveable family people on the eve of the Budget. Perhaps — who knows? — it was Ben's own idea. He is, after all, the son of Gordon Brown's political secretary, Sue Nye, and her husband, Gavyn Davies, a Government-friendly economist. Growing up in new Labour heartland, which genes the wee boy could have spontaneously decided that it was his duty to help the Chancellor to send coded messages about its commitment to childcare, education, and universal child benefit. His glum little face might merely be a primitive attempt at gravitas, caused by watching too many videos of Robin Cook emerging from meetings.

Either way, this extraordinarily contrived, shriekingly cynical photo-opportunity must have a message in it for the electorate to decode. It is, frankly, too bizarre to ignore.

What seems to have happened is that several newspapers contacted Mr Brown's office with requests for a photograph to accompany the time-honoured caption, beginning "Taking a break from preparing his Budget speech, the Chancellor relaxes with...". Here the problem arose. With whom? Previous Chancellors have been willing to stroll in the spring sunshine with their wives and any available children, looking statesmanlike yet carefree, assuring us that they, too, are mature people with responsibilities. The habit originated in the 1950s, with a vague desire in that pre-computer age to let the nation see that its Chancellor had finished all his hard sums. Senior brains on *The Times* tell me that Selwyn Lloyd used to prove his relaxed state by wearing suede shoes and looking at ducks.

What the Chancellor does on Budget day, after all, dramatises the way that Government affects our daily financial lives and family comfort. So a nervous nation is shown a benevolent, providing paterfamilias; the kind of chap who will not drop ruinous surprises on us. Thus Edna and Elspeth, Theresa and Norma, Rosemary and Gillian all smiled to the cameras; and now no picture editor feels comfortable until he is sure of a "Chancellor relaxes" picture for Budget Monday.

But Gordon Brown has neither wife nor child. So, by the same infantile, political spin-logic, his single state lays him open to the risk that electors might think him irresponsible. If he posed alone, we would imagine a callous fun-loving yuppie, a guy who might abolish tax on tequila slammers and lap-dancers while using the NHS budget to build sushi bars and dry-ski slopes. Panic! The pound could dive, the populace riot! The messages flash and bleep around the government communications: it will take more than suede shoes and ducks to counter such terrors. So get Gordon into a sweater, now! Find a woman and a brat, quick! What's that? The secretary's kid? A birthday party? Brilliant!

And so it was made known to the anxious press that there would be a chance to take photographs of the Chancellor with his girlfriend, a tot and a birthday cake. *The Daily Mail* was invited in person; the rest were represented by the Press Association agency, PA. There was, let me emphasise, no question of intrusion: Charles Whelan from Mr Brown's office orchestrated the event with full consent of the mother and father. What, after all, is the point of having a pretty toddler if you can't lend him to your boss in an emergency? So we opened yesterday's papers to the awful sight of Gordon Brown, his girlfriend, some Teletubby tableware, and a child with an expression ranging from preoccupied to downright miserable.

Some carried it with almost visibly gritted teeth (you can tell by the curt captions). *The Independent* showed its miffed independence by leaving the child out entirely and using a picture of Gordon Brown and his girlfriend apparently sulking, back to back, over some balloons. Even the *Mail* — the favoured paper with its own staff at the bunfight — bit the hand that fed it with the worst picture of all, in which Mr Brown looks like an unshaven witch and Ben looks plain horrified. I am happy to say that newspapers are treacherous swine.

But why, for God's sake, does government feel the need to feed us this stuff? Do they think we are stupid? Do their focus group reports tell them that we are so infantile that we will trust a Finance Minister only if he has a way with babies? Personally, I would rather he had a way with figures, and slept soundly at night. It is easier to have confidence in the normal unvarnished demeanour of Mr Brown: dour, prim and cross. He looks intelligent, and he looks real. Nor did the last Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, need props to be convincing. His shambolic appearance, jovial gut, naughty chuckle and large whisky were as reassuring in their way as Mr Brown's Scottish grumpiness.

Indeed, whenever the humanity of a politician does genuinely reassure the onlooker, it usually turns out to be the real unflattering humanity that does the trick — not the photo-opportunity. There was more to cheer for in Margaret Thatcher's strident, infuriating stubbornness than in those contrived pictures of her cuddling lambs or looming over accident victims. Tony Blair looks better when he is moved or taken aback, than when he widens his eyes and says "trust me". David Mellor's family photo call only made him loathsome, whereas when he talks unselfconsciously of art or sport, he is transformed. John Major's team never managed to build him an image, but he achieved universal respect in his final doomed struggle. Michael Forrester's lip-biting dignity in defeat won him more admirers than years of buffoonish machismo in office.



SEAN CONNERY has parted with the director of his latest film, after apparently rejecting "more involvement" with his talented costar, Catherine Zeta Jones. The extravagantly named Antoine Fuqua, who had planned to sit behind the camera on *Entrapment* (some action yarn about a raid on a Hong Kong bank) has quit a few weeks before the filming was due to start. The Connery-inspired rewrites will turn it into a "character-driven romance with a crime background".

● BONUS voyage to The World of Resident Sea, the "Titanic tax haven". The captain is Ola Harsheim, who ran aground in the Red Sea in 1996, costing his ship's owners more than £1 million in repairs and compensation. "It was a navigational error for which the captain was ultimately responsible," says a large propeller at Cunard. "Such an incident might happen to any captain." Harsheim's experience of a "genuine emergency" was a factor in his selection. I trust the buyers of the £1.3 million flats are equally relaxed. JASPER GERARD

# All power to the campuses

Sheila Lawlor says Blair should let go of university fees

The universities are one of the most intractable problems Tony Blair has inherited from the Tories, and they recently cost the Government a set of defeats in the Lords. The imperious Baroness Blackstone, though an out-and-out egalitarian, failed to hold the position on fees and loans against party rebels and the Opposition, for whom bleeding hearts were the order of the day.

The Government wants to introduce a tuition fee for students of up to £1,000, subject to a means test, and to move away from maintenance funded in part by a means-tested grant and in part by a loan, to one where loans cover the full cost of maintenance. But the Tories backed Sir Ron Dearing, whose report had proposed the £1,000 fee, but no change to the maintenance arrangements. Some Labour peers wanted students to be fully reimbursed — in effect, restoring the idea that higher education should be free.

The amendments will be reversed in the Commons, or so the Government has promised. But perhaps the Prime Minister will benefit from a period of reflection on higher education. Universities have always raised highly political issues: their independence, their religion (or, today, conscience) and their funding. Now there is another factor: the impact of mass higher education on mass politics.

Mr Blair's problem is to reconcile an elite tradition of university education with mass take-up. Until the late 1980s, British universities remained expensive, highly selective institutions, educating a far smaller proportion of school-leavers than their counterparts in North America and most of Europe. The past decade has seen a rapid expansion in student numbers, only partly because of the polytechnics changing to universities. The problem of funding this expansion is linked to two other issues: institutional independence versus central regulation, and excellence versus egalitarianism.

The universities are broke. They cannot pay their teaching staff adequately and are finding it hard to maintain the standard with which this country has led the world. But when vice-chancellors threatened to charge students "top-up" fees, the last Government made its disapproval clear. Now Labour is legislating to block such charges. Sir Ron's £1,000 standard fee — applied to all universities — was a sort of compromise: a way of bringing more money into higher education without charging it directly to the taxpayer. But it is not even clear now that the money raised will all be spent on higher education.

Although students will pay more of their way and universities will be less dependent on taxpayers' money, neither Sir Ron's proposals nor the Government's interpretation give the universities any greater independence. In fact, the State will take greater control, increase the universities' bureaucratic regulation, determine the content and method of teaching, and the structure of the institutions themselves.

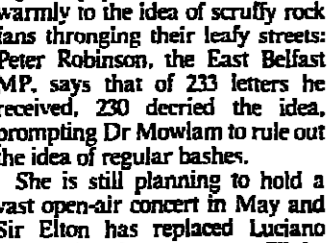
Universities will lose even more of their independence, and so will their students. The lessons from schooling over the past decades should remind us that officials, whether local or central, are a poor substitute for teachers who teach and autonomous institutions answerable to the user. This is particularly true of grant-maintained schools, one of which Mr Blair chose for his children.

Were he to be as bold in his general dealings with the universities as he has been in educating his children, he would opt to set the universities free from the Department for Education and the Treasury — to teach to charge, to set their standards, to compete. The aim would be excellence; the means, freedom; the cost, minimal. The Government could set up a proper loans system to which all students had access for tuition and maintenance, and which would be repaid during their working lives. It could give core or other funding directly to the universities as it saw fit. For this money, the universities would be accountable to the Government. For money earned from student fees, they would be accountable to students.

What are the chances that the Prime Minister might act? Mr Blair is no stranger to radical proposals and he would not be the first Prime Minister to take on the Education Department. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, and Baroness Blackstone are part of a tired machine whose role in the destruction of teaching and learning in this country has yet to be fully revealed.

# Belfast blues

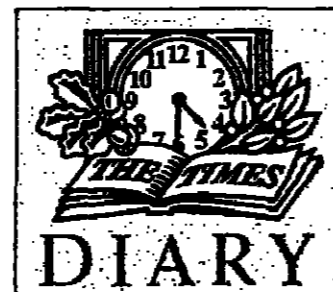
MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, wants Rocket Man Sir Elton John to appear in a concert at Ireland's former parliament building as part of her plan for wider public access. She thinks a few bars from the Hertfordshire pianist would be the ideal mood-setter. Dr Mowlam (pictured with Sir Elton) announced last year that she wanted to throw open the gates of the former parliament buildings, and mooted the idea of regular pop concerts. But those free-spirited locals have not reacted warmly to the idea of scruffy rock fans thronging their leafy streets: Peter Robinson, the East Belfast MP, says that of 233 letters he received, 230 decried the idea, prompting Dr Mowlam to rule out the idea of regular bashers.



She is still planning to hold a vast open-air concert in May and Sir Elton has replaced Luciano Pavarotti as front-runner to fill the headline slot. "They are beautiful grounds, and we think more use should be made of them," says one of her helpers, promising a "major announcement" soon. "This is just one of the ways," Robert McCartney, UK Unionist MP, does not think that the Government's celebrity-hugging transfers will across the Irish Sea. "It is all part of the 'Cool Britannia' thing. It is very ersatz: PR icing to cover deep-seated problems, which does not go down very well over here. We take our politics more seriously." Sadly, they do.

● THE trials of globe-trotting Robin Cook's Middle East trip went wrong before he landed. As the plane neared Cairo, it was diverted to Cyprus because of a sandstorm. There, 30 suits disembarked at midnight, to the shock of British tourists. They ignored Robin to snap another ginger top, the BBC's Nicholas Witchell.

Cheque out THE Abbey Habit holds little allure for Alan Davies who appears



in TV adverts for the bank. The Abbey National has had to apologise to the comic actor. "A cheque bounced and I had to phone to see what was going on. I said: 'You do realise what would happen if I told the tabloids'. At least I bank with the Abbey."

● LABOUR'S spin-sters at Millbank Tower are to get a new landmark. Legal & General has put the 32-floor building, which houses Peter Mandelson's media centre, on the market for £75 million. Pension fund managers are viewing. "Now they can make Labour pay for last year's Budget raid on pension funds," a fiscal type says.

Rock bottom THE chorus of disapproval heaped upon Tony Blair by the rock

groups he once courted has lounded a raw nerve. A week after the *New Musical Express* launched the salvo, first disclosed here, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, plans a massive U-turn on Welfare to Work, which promotes the fuss. In a move that will infuriate Gordon Brown, Smith has told the NME that the proposals forcing budding rockers off the dole are to be junked. "We need to look at the complaints," says Smith. "We need to make sure that it's tailored to people wanting a musical career." He hopes the concession will pacify the self-important Oasis boss Alan McGee, whom he meets this week. Smith also betrays his scepticism over Blair's starchy parties. "It's about what government actually does. It's not about having glasses of wine at No 10."

Italian job ITALIAN prosecutors still investigating the death of Roberto Calvi, "God's banker", have called in the British pathologist who examined the Fred West murders. Bernard Knight has flown to Rome to solve the mystery behind the death of the Vatican banker, who was found hanging beneath Blackfriars Bridge in 1982. Knight, 67, is modest. "I'm supposed to be retired, but nobody lets me."



SEAN CONNERY has parted with the director of his latest film, after apparently rejecting "more involvement" with his talented costar, Catherine Zeta Jones. The extravagantly named Antoine Fuqua, who had planned to sit behind the camera on *Entrapment* (some action yarn about a raid on a Hong Kong bank) has quit a few weeks before the filming was due to start. The Connery-inspired rewrites will turn it into a "character-driven romance with a crime background".



● BON voyage to The World of Resident Sea, the "Titanic tax haven". The captain is Ola Harsheim, who ran aground in the Red Sea in 1996, costing his ship's owners more than £1 million in repairs and compensation. "It was a navigational error for which the captain was ultimately responsible," says a large propeller at Cunard. "Such an incident might happen to any captain." Harsheim's experience of a "genuine emergency" was a factor in his selection. I trust the buyers of the £1.3 million flats are equally relaxed. JASPER GERARD

LISTEN TO ME

Sheila Lawlor is director of the think-tank Politeia, which recently published *The Many and the Few*: rhetoric and reality in the universities after Dearing.



## GUN LAW

Every citizen suffers from concessions to terror

"The Maze," according to Northern Ireland Security Minister Adam Ingram, "is unique." He has a point. How many other prisons are claimed to be Europe's most secure and yet allow their inmates to torture and murder each other? The death of the terrorist suspect David Keys, the second inmate to be killed within three months, is a cause for official shame. The murders follow the escape of an IRA suspect from a Christmas party last year and the fortuitous discovery of an IRA escape tunnel last April, as it neared completion. These security lapses are more than misfortunes. They are an appalling commentary on the way in which Government, inside and outside the Maze, has placed the priorities of terrorists above adherence to principle.

Ministers are, understandably, anxious to be seen doing nothing to provoke those organisations which still, formally, observe a ceasefire and still, publicly, negotiate for peace. But, in their anxiety not to offend calculating murderers, damage has been done to the rule of law, the criminal justice system and faith in Government. There are clearly operational problems in the Maze which may be addressed by an inquiry just completed by Martin Narey, the director of prison regimes for England and Wales. There are also, however, searching policy questions which need to be asked of ministers. Is the fair operation of law across the United Kingdom being unacceptably eroded to keep happy those whose only interest is in making Ulster ungovernable?

Mr Keys died in a block of the Maze prison set aside for, and run by, Loyalist Volunteer Force terrorists. These men respect no ceasefire and consider Protestants who "collaborate" with the peace process to be "legitimate targets". Mr Keys was actively helping the security forces with their inquiries and yet was housed in a cell secure only in the sense that terrorists can operate unmolested by prison officers for hours on end. It is right, on an operational level, to ask

why a man who was co-operating with the inquiry was left in such close proximity to others awaiting trial. Why, as a potentially valuable witness, was he exposed to such risk? It is also, however, right in policy terms to question the surrender of control which makes murderers their own warders for so much of the time. If the terrorist "officer commanding" is the source of authority in each block, then what is the Governor other than provider of laundry and catering?

It is not only within the Maze that the criminal justice system is mocked. Last year a brutal sectarian murderer, Jason Campbell, was nearly transferred from a Scottish prison to the more relaxed surroundings of the Maze at the request of one loyalist terror group, even though he had no connection with Northern Ireland. Only public outcry in Scotland prevented the due process of law being twisted in this case to appease a paramilitary group. But the transfer of prisoners in other cases, a clear concession to terrorist pressure, continued unimpeded.

The presumption now exists that the British Government is willing to bend the law to political ends. Even when it believes it is acting free of political considerations it is now assumed to be making further political concessions. Last week the Home Secretary decided not to extradite the IRA suspect Róisín McAisley to Germany where she was wanted for trial in connection with the bombing of a British Army barracks. Mr Straw, not normally soft on crime, argued that it would be wrong on medical grounds to extradite her and released her from custody. Mr Straw's reasons must be respected but the Irish Foreign Minister clearly saw the release as political and praised his "helpful" gesture.

It is unfortunate for Mr Straw that his actions should be viewed in this way, but he is only reaping the bitter harvest sowed by colleagues. Respect for the law, on which every UK citizen's liberties depend, is fraying with every terrorist's tug.

## COOK IN BOOTS

The Foreign Secretary has stumbled in Jerusalem

In the Arab-Israeli peace process, the European Union has long been on the sidelines. Although the EU feeds more money into Gaza and the West Bank than the United States, its role is routinely described as that of payer, not player. When Britain took over the EU presidency in January, Tony Blair — who is due to attend Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations next month — placed a high priority on a more active EU "peacemaking" role.

The aim of Robin Cook's visit this week was to explore with Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat the scope for a more active EU strategy. The sandstorm over his "viewing" of Har Homa, the bitterly contested Israeli building site in east Jerusalem, has all but eclipsed the main purpose of his trip and seems likely to have a thoroughly adverse impact on the EU hopes of becoming more actively engaged.

Mr Cook's decision to make Har Homa the visible symbol of the EU's new activism was bound to be seen by Israel as deliberate provocation. There is no more neutral issue than Har Homa. The EU and the Americans view it as a breach of Israeli undertakings not to build new settlements in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Israel asserts that Har Homa is not a new settlement but part of its response to the housing shortage in Jerusalem.

The British defence is that Har Homa is of particular salience to the peace talks, which were suspended for a year when Israel sent in the bulldozers. Mr Cook blandly claims that it must surely serve the interests of both parties for him to visit the site and judge for himself. There are many ways of proceeding on delicate ground: Mr Cook chose the most un diplomatic.

If fact-finding was what the Foreign

Secretary had in mind, he could have paid it a quiet visit, as Derek Fatchett did last July. Why turn this minor part of his crowded itinerary into a high-profile photo-opportunity side by side with Faisal al-Husseini, the leading Palestinian official in east Jerusalem? Why, instead of touring the actual site, did he opt to view it from the hill of Jabal Abu Ghneim, the site of Palestinian protests against the settlement? Simply, as he says, "to see how the land lies". By picking Har Homa, rather than a West Bank settlement which could equally have served to make the EU point about Israeli policy, he was open to the charge of meddling in the most delicate issue of all, the future status of Jerusalem.

Mr Cook is not the first foreign dignitary to burn his fingers over Jerusalem. President Chirac's walkabout in east Jerusalem turned into a furious public spat. President Clinton had to cancel his own tour of the old city. Mr Cook has climbed down at the last minute, cutting out the photo-opportunity and meeting Mr al-Husseini on the more neutral ground of a university campus. At Har Homa, he will now be accompanied by Israeli officials.

Mr Cook will still dine tonight with Mr Netanyahu. But the dinner is unlikely now to focus on the EU's positive agenda, the development of Gaza port and the Karni industrial park, or the establishment of safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank. Mr Cook will not be unhappy at the kudos this public row will give him in the Arab countries on his itinerary. But as an Israeli official commented, "you cannot catch flies by giving them vinegar". Mr Cook is not known for his ebullient manner; but he has not served the EU's purposes well by donning his diplomatic big boots.

## LISTEN TO MOTHERS

But before Spock, nobody did

To a whole generation of postwar mothers, Benjamin Spock was close to God. His *Baby and Child Care*, published in 1946, outsold every book but the Bible. Written with an absolute authority that would not be ventured today, his commandments were worshipped by parents who had been used to taking orders in the War. He brought love, warmth and affection to the art of mothering; but in his efforts to counteract the disciplinarianism of the 1930s, he sometimes veered towards indulgence.

Spock's book, when it first appeared, was revolutionary. Under the direction of Truby King, childcare had previously been a "well-matter of mothercraft" and the "well-regulated nursery". Based on studies of bottle-reared calves, Dr King's theories advocated strict four-hourly feeding of babies and no attention when they cried. In the bleak landscape of the 1930s, health and hygiene were the critical factors: so hugging was discouraged because it weakened children and carried germs.

Mrs Sydney Frankenburg, in *Common Sense in the Nursery*, was adamant that, if a child cried in the night, its concerns should be ignored, but its pillow should be turned over lest it catch cold from the wet pillowcase. And books were full of the dangers of overstimulation: one discouraged pointing anything out to a toddler lest blood

be diverted from growing teeth to the brain. Spock's argument that parental love and attention are vital for the mental and emotional development of a child is now taken for granted. But in the 1940s, it was a radical idea. That his books sold so well showed how raw a nerve they touched in mothers, who wanted instinctively to cuddle and nurture their children. But they also foisted guilt in parents who were not prepared to follow the new code. Indeed Spock himself later recanted from his more permissive views; but not before a whole generation of children had been reared in a way that encouraged them to put their own desires before anyone else's.

In 1946 a newly literate middle class was determined to rebel against the strict discipline of its parents. Instead of asking advice from their own mothers and grandmothers, new parents followed Spock instead. Today's mothers are more fortunate. They have a plethora of experts to follow. Those who are sceptical about the qualifications of doctors to pontificate about the upbringing of healthy children can happily ignore Penelope Leach, Hugh Jolly and Miriam Stoppard, and turn to our own Libby Purves. Her book, *How Not to be the Perfect Mother*, is the best antidote to all those childcare experts who have counselled perfection from 1946 to the present day.

## Time to get tough on drugs in prison

From His Honour Judge Barrington Black

Sir, It has been accepted for many years that many aspects of criminal activities are motivated by the need to feed a drugs habit.

My own experience has shown that the majority of hard drugs users with whom I deal started with cannabis, and I find the arguments to legalise that drug quite untenable.

I am astonished, however, to read that only now does the Prison Service seem to be getting to grips with the problem of drugs within prisons by proposing mandatory "closed visits" for inmates caught with drugs and the more extensive use of closed-circuit television and sniffer dogs (report and leading article, March 12). If effective precautionary measures have been taken in other places, why is it that this enormous problem still exists in our prisons?

The mitigation plea that were I to send an offender to prison he would have drugs readily available has been a frequent one. Moreover, the acceptance of that position has been highlighted by the existence of "drugs free" wings within some prisons, and I have been urged to take into account a prisoner's voluntary request to be lodged in such a wing.

I trust the belated action to be taken can be immediate and effective, and perhaps accompanied by the provision of more treatment and addiction centres within prisons, with the incentive offered to addicts that if they effectively take up such treatment, that will be taken into account in advancing their release.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRINGTON BLACK,  
Harrow Crown Court,  
Hailsham Drive,  
Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4TU.  
March 12.

From The Under Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Your leader, "Hard drugs, soft rules", understates the vigour with which illegal drug use is already being tackled in our prisons. Governors have the power to prevent physical contact on visits where staff suspect drugs may be passed. Searching of prisoners and visitors, the use of dogs, closed-circuit television and improved perimeter security also play a part in a comprehensive strategy to restrict the flow of drugs into prisons.

The number of positive drug-test results in prisons has been falling steadily. There has been a big reduction in cannabis use, and this has been achieved without any increase in the use of hard drugs. Over the last year, over £6 million has been invested in a range of types of treatment, all of which are being independently evaluated.

However, we are not complacent. That is why I commissioned last summer a review of the prison drug strategy. We expect to publish a new strategy in May. Independent research is expected to show that the often repeated assertion that prisoners are switching from cannabis to heroin is not supported either by the testing data or by the emerging findings of the research.

Opinion which cannot be backed up by evidence is peculiarly unhelpful in this area, and neither your leader nor Sir David Ramsbotham's remarks to the Home Affairs Committee (report, March 11) shed much light for that reason.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE HOWARTH,  
Home Office,  
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AT.  
March 13.

## Brown's mandate

From Mr Michael Ancram, QC, MP for Devesh (Conservative)

Sir, Your illuminating feature on Gordon Brown's prime-ministerial ambitions ("Loyal squad helps Brown to win ultimate goal", March 14) failed to address one salient problem — the East Dunfermline Question.

What, after devolution and the creation of a Scottish parliament, would be the constitutional propriety of having as prime minister a Scottish MP who had no direct constituency interests in nor responsibilities over health, education, housing, transport and that vast array of other constituency matters which would have transferred to Edinburgh; and no democratically justifiable interest in their equivalent application to England?

Could such a semi-mandated and part-time MP credibly be Prime Minister? Indeed, would it not be the first time since the Marquess of Salisbury at the end of the last century that someone less than a fully mandated and representative constituency MP would have held that post?

Can this really be what the pro-devolution Gordon Brown means by modernisation? Or is it just another case of him trying to have his Scottish cake while eating ours?

Whatever else, it does highlight the need to resolve the West Lothian Question.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ANCRAM,  
House of Commons,  
March 14.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Cutting traffic with a parking tax?

From Ms Lilli Matson

Sir, New taxes on parking at offices and supermarkets (report, March 11) could help to unlock our transport problems. However, careful attention needs to be given to how the proceeds can be recycled to improve public transport in town and country.

Two thirds of the rural workforce travel to urban areas for work and many of these journeys are made by car. If new parking charges are to encourage people to travel by different modes, part of the proceeds will need to be invested in improving rural public transport alongside urban.

Yours sincerely,  
LILLI MATSON  
(Head of Transport and Natural Resources),  
The Council for the Protection of Rural England,  
Warwick House,  
25 Buckingham Palace Road,  
London, SW1W 0PP.  
March 11.

From Mr Bernard Cooke

Sir, Edmund King, of the RAC, says (earlier editions) that parking charges "could push shops and offices out of town and that could, ironically, lead to longer journeys, more pollution and more congestion".

For more than a decade Bristol City Council has pursued a number of anti-car measures, including some of the highest parking charges in the country.

From the RAC control centre, recently relocated from the city centre to a greenfield site out of town, Mr King can survey the burgeoning business

and retail parks which have led to the longer journeys and increased the pollution and congestion he predicts.

The future is here and it is not environmentally friendly.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD COOKE,  
1 Kensington Place,  
Clifton, Bristol BS8 3AH.  
March 11.

From Dr John P. Fox

Sir, The Government's plan to cause a "tax" on car parking to be implemented at supermarkets — which those bodies will undoubtedly pass on to the consumer — might actually bring certain benefits in its wake.

Might it not, in many parts of the country, actually lead to a renaissance of the killed-off and much-lamented local high street shop? If so, the sooner such a tax is implemented, the better.

Yours etc,  
JOHN P. FOX,  
98 Yarrow Road, SE12 0PT.  
March 11.

From Mr R. D. Rangeley

Sir, Any attempt to make off-road parking even more expensive will be at the cost of local residents and will obstruct those using surrounding roads for the purpose for which they were intended. How would Government stop commuters exercising their choice not to pay to park?

Yours faithfully,  
R. D. RANGELEY,  
12 Chiltern Road,  
Sutton, Surrey SM2 5RD.  
March 12.

### Another look at the way we work

From Ms Catherine Boyd

Sir, What a breath of fresh air from Libby Purves (article, March 10; see also letter, March 9). Changes in the way people work will give us all (men, women and children) the greatest opportunity to improve the quality of our lives. Men could play a larger part in family life, women could work and look after their families without collapsing from stress and, above all, children would benefit hugely from greater contact with both their less exhausted parents.

Many of the problems exercising the Government at the moment (single parents dependent on benefit, juvenile delinquency, child-care provision) should recede as flexible working hours and home-based paid work become commonplace. Non-paid work will increase in status and people will no longer feel that raising children and running a family is a second-class activity to be fitted round paid work.

Let the Government put its energy behind this new and better way and not continue to back outdated ways of working. New Labour should mean just that.

Yours sincerely,  
CATHERINE BOYD,  
1 Cayton Crescent,  
London NW3 1TT.  
March 10.

From Mr J. A. Mills

Sir, The wealth of a nation should take into account the amount of leisure time its citizens enjoy. Time is not taxed by governments or reduced by inflation.

During the three-day week in the 1970s output from factories showed little decline. This should have set minds thinking about introducing three-day working weeks, allowing two sets of

workers to operate without premium payments.

All legal obstacles to this should be removed as soon as possible.

Yours etc,  
J. A. MILLS,  
242 Thorpe Hall Avenue,  
Thorpe Bay, Essex SS1 3SE.  
March 12.

From Mr Paul Tatham

Sir, The "flexible employment schemes" advocated by Libby Purves are surely appropriate, because the way forward must be for individuals to understand and match the needs of employers, with government assistance.

There have been recent moves to combat age discrimination in job advertisements, but this reflects an attitude to work that is unsustainable. As the ratio of jobs to people becomes lower, the young should be given priority for jobs.

The Government's role should be gradually to lower the retirement age to 50 by encouraging a much higher level of personal pension planning and restricting mortgages to a 50-year age limit. It should seek to establish a culture where it is seen as normal to retire at 50 rather than perceived as an unfortunate circumstance, leading to poverty and with undertones of uselessness.

Retirement at 50, with adequate financial planning, would create new jobs in the sports, travel, leisure and entertainment fields, reduce the tax burden of the young person's job seeker's allowance, and do away with the fear of unemployment among the over-50s.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL TATHAM,  
Vine Cottage, Paley Street,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3JP.  
March 11.

### South African press

From the Chief Executive Officer of Independent Newspapers Holdings Ltd

Sir, The anti-ANC sentiments expressed by R. W. Johnson in his polemic (March 9) about Independent Newspapers in South Africa come as no surprise to anyone who has followed his coverage of this country over the years.

Since investing in South Africa in 1994 — before the first democratic elections — Independent has launched acclaimed and highly successful new titles and has relaunched several established publications. Far from "failing to capitalise" its papers or engaging in "swinging staff cuts", Independent has led the way in investing heavily in journalism and journalists.

R. W. Johnson could have found that circulations of the group's titles are in fact growing most encouragingly, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, and that the group's share price is hardly in free-fall. It has almost trebled since the 1994 purchase of the old Argus company.

### Out of the shadows

From the Executive Director of Changing Faces

Sir, With so many portrayals in the media of facially-disfigured people as tragic victims, incapable of a fulfilled life, or stereotypical images of facially-disfigured villains in popular film, it was reassuring to see *The Times* give so much prominence to the positive attitude of Beverly Hammett, the baby-sitter facially injured in an acid attack (report, March 10), who has not let her disfigurement stop her from living a

successful life.

Reports like this can do much to help those who are disfigured and feel that they are destined to a life "in the shadows" to see that this is not necessarily the case. They will also no doubt help others to look at the person beyond the disfigurement, a message that pervades the work of our charity.

Yours sincerely,  
IVAN FALLON,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Independent Newspapers Holdings Ltd,  
47 Sauer Street,  
Johannesburg 2000.  
March 9.

Not everyone who doesn't agree with Johnson's analyses of South African society is in cahoots with the ANC Government — which is itself attempting to "bully the press into uncritical support".

Johnson says that Independent titles suppressed news about an AIDS-care controversy and allegations of links between ANC members and recent bank heists. Both stories were in fact given very prominent treatment in Independent papers.

Tony O'Reilly has been a model proprietor, and the arrival of his company in South Africa has provided energy, expertise and investment to an industry which plainly needed it. He prizes editorial freedom and practises what he preaches.

Independent is independent. Ask its editors.

### Earlier answer to millennium bug

From Mr S. P. L. Kennedy

Sir, Your report (Business, March 6) that Zeneca and Royal & SunAlliance Insurance expect to spend £70 million and £58 million respectively on coping with the "millennium bug" is a sorry reflection on the short-sightedness of these and other large companies.

Thirty years ago I led the team of system analysts who designed the IT system for SunAlliance's life assurance companies. We had to allow for policyholders born in the 19th century and policies that would become claims in the 21st century; we simply deducted 1800 from the calendar year to shorten the computer record.

For month and day, we stored the day of the year from 1 to 365 (366 in a leap year), further shortening the record. Two standard sub-routines were designed to convert dates to the shortened format and vice-versa (taking care to allow for leap years). My colleague leading the team for the general insurance system adopted the same standard.

How is it that what we saw as straightforward systems design 30 years ago has apparently been overlooked by the modern IT professionals of the largest companies within sight of the year 2000?

Yours etc,  
S. P. L. KENNEDY  
(Professor of Insurance and Investment, City University, 1985-93 (recorded as 185-193)),  
Panfields,  
Denne Park, Horsham,  
West Sussex RH13 7AX.  
March 11.

### Ringing complaint

From Mr Tom Gough

Sir, When someone phones my home to try to sell me something (letters, March 5 and 9), my immediate response is to thank them for their call and ask them to ensure they take down my office telephone number so that they can order flowers to be delivered virtually anywhere in the UK and worldwide.

The resulting stunned silence or surprised laughter allows me to continue with details of our beautiful hand-tied bouquets and their remarkably good value.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS H. J. GOUGH  
(Director), Longmans the Florists,  
2 Bath House,  
Holborn Viaduct, EC1A 2FD.  
flower@btinternet.com  
March 11.

From Mr Alan D. Guest

Sir, I too am plagued by phone callers trying to sell me something. Although they know my name and telephone number they obviously do not know my address or they would not offer to provide me with patio doors; I live on the 14th floor of a 26-storey block (with no balcony) in the centre of town.

The Labour Party canvasser who called with a small poster had no excuse. I was asked to display the poster in my window. To attract floating voters?

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN D. GUEST,  
Flat 14-06, Victoria Centre,  
Nottingham, NG1 3PL.  
March 9.

### The sleep solution

From Mr Colin Hancock

Sir, Not since Dr Thomas Stuttaford endorsed my daily drink of red wine have I been so heartened by an article in *The Times*, namely your extract from *The Sleep Solution, Improve your Sleep, Health and Quality of Life from Tonight* by Nigel Ball and Nick Hough (Weekend, March 14; see also Mind and Matter, March 16).

For some time I have had to cope with the stigma, self-generated I hasten to add, attached to "I'm going to have five minutes". "Time for my post-prandial", "I'm going to put my feet up for a few minutes". "It must be my age", etc.

Since Saturday I have authoritatively announced, after lunch, that I am going to engage in "power napping".

Yours sincerely,  
C. HANCOCK,  
Fulbeck Cottage, Sudthorpe Hill,  
Fulbeck, Grantham,  
Lincolnshire NG32 3LE.  
bhancock@lineone.net  
March 15.

### Teletubbies world

From Mr J. G. Thomason

Sir, Whilst on holiday here with us, our two-year-old grandson (who lives in Hong Kong) conceived a passion for the Teletubbies (letters, March 13) and I now post video cassettes of the programme to him in Hong Kong. However, I noted with horror that each episode ends with all four creatures taking a voluntary free-fall jump down a chimney.

My grandson lives in a 24th floor flat and as a caring grandparent I have felt it advisable to edit out all these jumps before dispatching the tapes.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON THOMASON,  
Averyton, Windmill Lane,  
Midgham Green,  
Reading, Berkshire RG7 5TY.  
March 16.



OBITUARIES

DR BENJAMIN SPOCK

Dr Benjamin Spock, paediatrician and child psychologist, died in San Diego, California, on March 15 aged 94. He was born on May 2, 1903.

The apostle of childcare in the years after the Second World War, Benjamin Spock transformed parents to their offspring over half a century. From the moment of its publication in 1946 his book Baby and Child Care appeared irrevocably to alter attitudes towards bringing up children. It set its teeth against the "spare the rod and spoil the child" school of child-rearing. It focused on the child's potential rather than the imposition of discipline. In doing so, it appeared, superficially, to diminish the role of the parent's experience, and make it subordinate to that of the developing child. In fact it merely set out to reassure parents, not to liberate them as to what was good for their offspring; it aimed to relieve them of the burden of total responsibility for every aspect of their children's development. But that did not prevent Spock's being regarded by many as the prophet of permissive parenthood, and in an America which, after Vietnam, became increasingly conservative, he tended to be held responsible for what many regarded as the moral decay of American youth from the 1960s onwards. He could not help being aware of this and later editions of the book modified many of his original views. But to conservative middle- and middle-aged America he was still "the father of permissiveness" who had "Spock-marked" generations of young people. Therefore, when he spoke of children in later years he was careful to stress the importance of "parental leadership". Nevertheless he never reneged on his basic position which was "to respect children because they're human beings and they deserve respect, and they'll grow up to be better people". Benjamin McLane Spock was the oldest of six children whose parents were of Dutch ancestry (the family name was originally Spaak) in New Haven, Connecticut. His mother was an intimidating

woman and his father, a lawyer, a grave man: Spock grew up a rather timid boy, afraid of his parents and teachers. He was educated at a spartan private academy and Yale Medical School where, however, he found an outlet in rowing at which, with his powerful 6ft 4in frame, he excelled. He not only rowed for Yale, but was stroke for the American eight at the 1924 Olympics in Paris, in which event the USA won the gold medal. He obtained his BA degree in 1925 and then transferred to Columbia University College of Physicians, graduating in 1929. Spock was one of the few doctors of his era to train in both paediatrics and psychology. He went into private practice in New York in 1933, filling his surgery with children's games and wearing a lounge suit rather than a white coat so as to be less intimidating to his young patients. In 1943 he was called up to serve as a psychiatrist in the US Naval Reserve Medical Corps, being demobilised as a lieutenant-commander in 1946. By the end of that year he had taken the first steps towards his subsequent notoriety with the publication of Baby and Child Care. This struck an audience still nurtured on traditional attitudes to such matters (which had received some impetus from the discipline which had been required to fight a war from which America had just emerged victorious). Spock's easy-going attitude towards child-rearing urged parents to disregard the traditional advice of their grandmothers on discipline; he spoke out against rigid feeding schedules, strict toilet training and over-reaction to thumb-sucking. His book, which coincided with the postwar baby boom, was an instant bestseller. Three-quarters of a million were sold in its first year and in its various revisions (a sixth edition is scheduled for May) it has passed the 50 million mark. Spock's (at that time revolutionary) philosophy was one of respect for children although that belief was complemented by the notion that parents were entitled to ask for respect from their offspring. Unfortunately, to many parents of the immediate postwar generation he and his book became the source of all wisdom about children. In a crisis a young mother



might well reach for Baby and Child Care almost before reaching for her hapless child. Children, Spock told parents, were remarkable people who did not need smacks on the behind, and they certainly did not deserve to be humiliated. Cuddling was as important as cleanliness and strong discipline could usually be avoided. Yet Spock was later to admit that as a

conducted in an atmosphere of relaxed informality. Baby and Child Care was translated into more than thirty languages but Spock enjoyed less influence abroad than in America. He gave up his private practice in 1947 to join the staff of the Mayo Clinic, as consultant in child psychiatry, and that of the University of Minnesota, as Assistant Professor of Child Psychiatry. From 1951 to 1955 he was Professor of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh and then held a similar post at the Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He retired from Cleveland in 1967 and became a prolific writer and public speaker. Although a mildly conservative man, Spock became a peace advocate and radical in the 1960s, speaking out in particular against American involvement in Vietnam. He became co-chairman of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, the American version of CND. At that stage, he was perhaps inevitably branded as the man who was advocating the wet-nursing of youth. The then American Vice-President, Spiro Agnew, accused him of being personally responsible for a generation of spineless, pacific youngsters. In 1968 he was arrested in Boston and accused of helping young men to evade the draft: he was sentenced to two years in jail but successfully appealed. Spock was also blamed for much of the student rioting and classroom indiscipline in America and Europe in the early 1970s; this was held to be traceable to submissive parents who had swallowed Spock's edicts hook line and sinker. In fact, from much earlier Spock had been refining his views, certainly those which appeared to advocate laissez faire in child-rearing. In Baby and Child Care's second edition of 1957, the notion of parental leadership had already been reinstated; but his most radical lurch back towards a more conservative position came in 1974 when, in the magazine Redbook, he blamed paediatricians and child psychologists like himself, together with teachers and social workers, for having persuaded parents that the experts knew best. In the article he urged increased firmness in handling children

in future. The professionals had imposed a cruel deprivation on parents, he said, and had not realised until too late that their "know-it-all" attitude was undermining the self-assurance of parents. Indeed, he always denied being an advocate of permissiveness; parents, he said, had misinterpreted him. He had merely been trying to overcome the extreme rigidity of child-rearing, then the whole of American paediatrics had swung towards permissiveness, throwing the less secure parent off balance. His recantation was expanded in another book, Bringing Up Children in Difficult Times (1974). He believed his earlier attitudes had undermined parents by making them feel they knew nothing about the subject themselves. The one area in which he most completely conceded that his teaching had not been for the best was the impact it might have made on the sexual behaviour of the very young. "Sexuality has lost a lot of its spiritual aspects," he said in 1993. "In trying to make sex more natural and less scary, as it was in my childhood many years ago, we leaned over backwards and have forgotten that sexuality has as much to do with spiritual matters, as the physical and mental." In retirement from his university chair, Spock continued to be in great demand for lecture tours. And although he had retreated from some of his more radical positions on childcare he never lost his appetite for public protest on political matters. The old anti-Vietnam protester was still in full cry in his eighties, climbing the six-foot barbed wire fences at Seneca army depot at Romulus, New York (America's Greenham Common) complaining about the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles. Lately he had suffered from ill-health and following a heart attack, a stroke and pneumonia was confined to his house in San Diego. Only recently his second wife, Mary, had appealed for help in paying his \$10,000 per month medical bills. Benjamin Spock was twice married. His first marriage, in 1927, to Jane Cheney ended in divorce in 1976. Later that year he married Mary Morgan, who survives him with two sons of his first marriage.

MAJOR DAVID GIBSON

Major David Gibson, former Senior Steward of the National Hunt Committee and amateur rider, died on March 3 aged 73. He was born on February 26, 1925.



David Gibson (right, with microphone) making a presentation at Goodwood

IN THE recent history of National Hunt racing, no rider and horse have been so inseparably linked as David Gibson and Klaxton. Their exploits, which included winning three Grand Military Gold Cups in succession from 1950 to 1952, earned them a faithful public following, and they were a memorable sight as they charged up the demanding final hill at Sandown Park: on one occasion being an official "distance" in front of the rest of the field. All did not go smoothly, nevertheless. In their first attempt at the Grand Military Gold Cup, for which they were 6/4 on favourites in 1949, horse and rider parted company at the third fence. Similarly, although third in 1952 in the Kim Muir Memorial Challenge Cup, the famous race for amateurs at Cheltenham, the following year Klaxton came down when in the lead three fences from home: the first of three occasions when Gibson met disaster at this same point of this particular race.

But Gibson and Klaxton had plenty of success, on one occasion beating the subsequent Grand National winner, Nickel Coin, and the old horse, who was 14 when retired, was still capable even at that age of an impressive turn of speed. Gibson also had a long association with another fine chaser who, like Klaxton, was

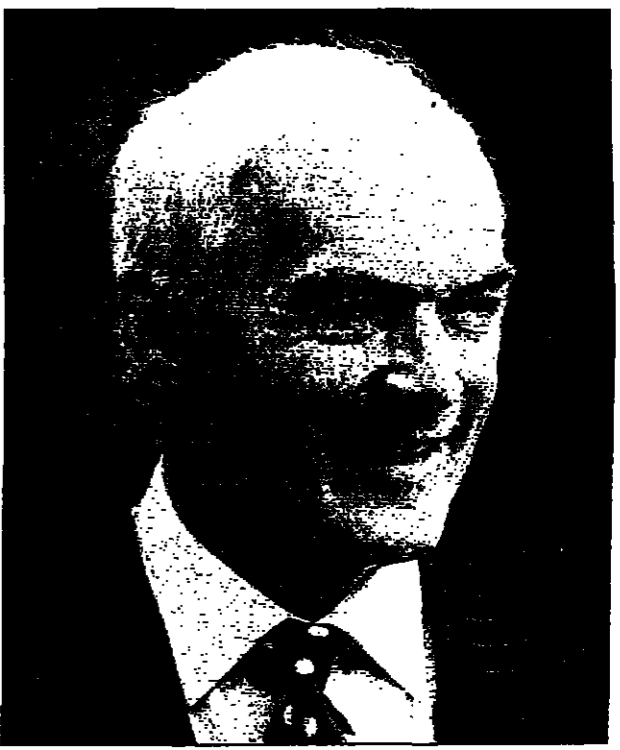
trained at first by Ivor Anthony until he retired and then by Bob Turnell, and whose career lasted even longer. This was Greenstone, who, when owned by J.V. Rank, was desperately unlucky to have been beaten by a very short head by Silver Fame in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. For Gibson, he won a dozen races between 1953 and 1957,

in five of them ridden by his owner, and the last of which came when he was 15 years old. Meanwhile, with a somewhat younger horse, Cottage Lace, bought on the strength of his promising efforts as a hunter-chaser, Gibson achieved a fourth Grand Military Gold Cup in 1956. William David Gibson was educated at Harrow and Trin-

ity College, Cambridge, and in 1945 was commissioned into the Welsh Guards. After retiring as a major in 1957, he went into the family shipping and insurance firm of W.J. Tatem and was its chairman from 1974 to 1996. At the same time, he was prominent in several other maritime commercial organisations. His successful riding career started when he was in the army and in 1957, on his own horse, China Clipper II, might have achieved further distinction by finishing in the Grand National but, after gallantly surviving for two circuits, Gibson unluckily came down at the very last fence. After Bob Turnell, he had horses with Bill Wighton, and most recently, with his son, Martin, owned Ben Eiger, trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies. In 1959, Gibson became a member of the National Hunt Committee and its Senior Steward in 1966, and thereafter a member of the Jockey Club (after it had incorporated the NHC) and deputy Senior Steward from 1969 to 1971, in which capacity he was instrumental in initiating the praiseworthy project of remodelling the water jumps on every course in the country. At the same time, he was for six years a member of Tattersalls Committee, which adjudicates on betting disputes, and its chairman from 1967 to 1969. Horses and business apart, David Gibson was a modest, genial man, utterly reticent about his great generosity both to public charities and private individuals. Having been born in Wales, he was fiercely proud of his Welsh associations, particularly that of his old regiment. His hobby was sailing and there are no prizes for guessing the name of his boat: it was affectionately named after his faithful old partner, Klaxton. He is survived by his second wife, Jane (his first wife, Charlotte, predeceased him in 1973), three sons and two stepsons, a daughter and a stepdaughter.

HUGH COVENEY

Hugh Coveney, former Irish Government minister, was found dead in the sea near Cork on March 14 aged 62. He was born in July 1935.



Hugh Coveney was a Cork businessman who had been a minister in John Bruton's coalition Government in the Republic of Ireland between 1994 and 1997. He also captained the Irish team in the Admiral's Cup yacht race in 1979 and was one of those who had to be helicoptered out of the sea when the Fastnet race was disrupted by storms that claimed 18 lives. Born in Cork, the son of a small builder who made good as a quantity surveyor, Hugh Coveney went to school at the Christian Brothers College in the city and then at Clongowes, the Jesuit boarding school in Co Kildare. He qualified as a quantity surveyor or fisherman in modern times, as he fought on behalf of one of the few sectors of the Irish economy that has suffered as a result of EU membership. Threatened by marauding Spanish fishing vessels near their own coast, the Irish fishermen were mischievously delighted when Coveney broke ranks in Europe to criticise the conduct of Spanish fishermen off Canada. After only six months in office, however, Coveney was forced to resign when it was revealed that he had asked a fellow Corkman who was the chairman of the state-owned Gas Company to put his former firm of quantity surveyors on a list to bid for a contract. Some considered that it was not a resigning matter and that Coveney had

fallen victim to a desire by the Government to signpost ostentatiously that its standards were higher than its scandal-ridden Fianna Fail predecessors. He became a junior minister at the Department of Finance, where he continued to enjoy the Taoiseach's special confidence as an adviser on economic issues. Coveney was also appointed to the negotiating team in the negotiations for a settlement in Northern Ireland. Since last year's general election he had been opposition spokesman on agriculture where, despite his expertise as the owner of a successful farm, he had yet to make much impact. He was a man who preferred action to the negative debate that is the stock-in-trade of parliamentary politics. Coveney is survived by his wife and by six sons and one daughter. Five of his children were on a round-the-world tour in his yacht in aid of the Chernobyl Children's Fund at the time of his death.

dealing with the many questions which he did not understand he willingly listened to the best available advice, and acted swiftly upon it. If his course of policy afterwards proved to be mistaken, he unhesitatingly modified or even reversed it. This was said about General Primo de Rivera, Dictator of Spain from 1923 to 1930, on his death. Of how many other dictators could this be said?

GENERAL PRIMO DE RIVERA

GENERAL Primo de Rivera must now be numbered among those large-hearted public servants, of whom Mr. Bonar Law and ex-President Taft were other examples, who have worked until they felt that they were too exhausted to continue, and resigned their offices when the finger of death had already marked them down. In the last of the innumerable manifestos which the then newly fallen Dictator addressed to his countrymen, he declared, with the amazing lack of reticence which was one of the chief sources of his popularity among them, that he had "not been in full possession of his faculties" during the last moments of his dictatorship, and that he felt obliged to undergo medical treatment for his nerves. For over six years he had indeed borne the responsibility, the anxiety, and the unceasing labour of governing Spain almost single-handed. And he had come to the task unacquainted with political training or with any technical knowledge except of soldiering. He was never a deep student or even a careful reader. He ruled the country entirely by virtue of his quick wit, his love of action, and his willingness to assume responsibility. In

ON THIS DAY

March 17, 1930



"If his course of policy... proved to be mistaken, he unhesitatingly modified or even reversed it..." This was said about General Primo de Rivera, Dictator of Spain from 1923 to 1930, on his death. Of how many other dictators could this be said?

dealing with the many questions which he did not understand he willingly listened to the best available advice, and acted swiftly upon it. If his course of policy afterwards proved to be mistaken, he unhesitatingly modified or even reversed it. He was content to do his best in every difficulty as it occurred, and his promptness to set maintained his leadership among rivals who shared to a greater extent than he the national preference for waiting on the morrow. But in most respects he was a typical Spaniard, genial, debonair, and easy-going, a gallant gentleman at home and a

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Two women find enterprising ways to take the stress out of work



Kay Kirkby concentrates on the back, shoulders, neck and scalp when helping staff at Barclays Mortgages to relax with a massage

When a job is a pain in the neck

BARCLAYS BANK employees are enjoying the benefits of a new stress relief programme in their offices. Many of the 800 staff at Barclays Mortgages in Leeds spend long hours on the phone in front of computer screens and, until recently, suffered a high rate of headaches, bad backs and stiff shoulders.

Susan Pape reports on one technique being used to ease tension in the office

many people work under. They constantly have to meet high targets, they drive a lot or they are stuck in front of a PC screen for hours," she said. "Our bodies aren't designed for the way we treat them - and after a time, the pressure starts to tell. People find

stress relief massages as part of the company's staff welfare scheme. "We are on the edge of town and there is not much opportunity to go out for a walk or around the shops at lunchtime, so many people can be working at their PCs from 9am until 6pm without having any significant exercise," she said.

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"Actually, I've already found the answer to stress relief - it's called winning a contract"

Help is at hand for Chinese adventure

By Sally Watts

HAND-HOLDING support is helping smaller businesses to establish themselves in China, which is seen by the Government as a challenging market with burgeoning opportunities, especially for firms in niche areas.

Pioneering project to aid tourism industry

By Brian Collett

AN HOTEL passed from its elderly owner into the hands of her family. The hotel, with more than 20 rooms, had been run almost like a private club - but inefficiently, with no management structure and little financial control.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

A large grid of small advertisements for various business services, including 'Business for Sale', 'Businesses Wanted', 'Loans & Investment', 'Business Services', 'Urgently Required Show Kitchens', 'Idea or Invention', 'Detective', 'Remortgage and Loans', and 'Communications 2000'.

COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES

A large advertisement for 'The Time Difference' computer systems. It features a central image of a Pentium II computer system with '64 64 Mb RAM Gb HD' on the monitor. Text includes 'Pay Nothing Until September 98 INTEREST FREE CREDIT', '266-2 PowerPro PC', '266M-2x PowerPro PC', and '333-2 PowerPro PC'. It lists various specifications like RAM, hard disk, and graphics cards.

A vertical advertisement on the far left edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring the word 'ferenc' and some other text.

Tactical guide to FA Cup and main leagues

The story so far . . .

A week is a long time in football. Or eight days, in your case. I suppose you're referring to Leeds United, the bane of my life as an ITF manager. Indeed I am. Just think - it was only last Saturday that they went out of the FA Cup to Wolves, a Nationwide League team, and since then, they've won two games, scored nine goals and led me in.

An impressive 61 points in a week by an entrant from Falmouth; revaluations due soon; chances for more points in FA Cup replays

It is becoming progressively more difficult to make prodigious leaps up the ITF tables as the weeks pass, which explains why this week's highest mover, Steve Johnson, of Falmouth, Cornwall, managed the impressive total of 61 points last week, but only rose 27,536 places, to 57,836th.



The next and final play revaluations of the 1997-98 ITF season will take place at the end of this month, and will be announced on April 1. Despite the date, the new values that appear in these lists will be entirely serious.

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING? Call the ITF Checkline on 0991 111 333



Harry Redknapp of West Ham who this week could become the top-scoring manager in the ITF FA Cup league

As the cup competitions reach their final few rounds, the opportunities for managers and players to score extra points in replays are becoming fewer, but tonight's games will mean a change in the FA Cup column of the managers' table. Kenny Dalglish has the highest FA Cup score, 13, but either Arsenal's Arsène Wenger, the highest-scoring manager overall, or Harry Redknapp of West Ham, will overtake him tonight, while Gordon Strachan can draw level with Dalglish if Coventry beat Sheffield United.

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF league and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students', youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF team faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

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If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE £50,000 top prize £1,000 monthly prize. PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE Professionals choose their fantasy team. STUDENTS' LEAGUE Monthly prize of membership tickets, signed football and sports bag. YOUTH LEAGUE Monthly prize of membership tickets, signed football and sports bag.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Name. 1 S Whitfield, 2 J Gardner, 3 B Fletcher, 4 C Purdy, 5 A Finch, 6 J Peppor, 7 A Hemmrow, 8 M Hussain, 9 L Emery, 10 S Brooks, 11 M Portwood, 12 Adech, 13 C Ruiz-Guilmeras, 14 J Woolmer, 15 C Purdy, 16 C Chesbire, 17 M Nicol, 18 S Alport, 19 T Sall, 20 P Johnston.

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Name. 1 N Wheatley, 2 J Gardner, 3 M N Wheatley, 4 J Gardner, 5 G Wilson, 6 E Carline, 7 S Stovon Shipley, 8 M Slade, 9 F Ferguson, 10 W Razzak, 11 J Windstead, 12 C Marianczak, 13 D Hargreaves, 14 G Stirlington, 15 J Frost, 16 I McGill, 17 T Sharples, 18 K Wade, 19 M Titterton, 20 M Baker.

YOUTH LEAGUE

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Name. 1 M Somapasa, 2 D Lewis, 3 R Wicke, 4 J Gardner, 5 C Leonard, 6 M McPhillips, 7 C Oyston, 8 M Roberts, 9 J Laurence, 10 G Richards, 11 C Marianczak, 12 K Thrdall, 13 N Brotherton, 14 E Swirles, 15 C Calderbank, 16 S Mawer, 17 N McQuinness, 18 T Smith, 19 B McMillan, 20 A Simpson.

ITF LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Name, Points. 1 A Luckhurst, 2 Mr M Jones, 3 Mr M Jones, 4 A Luckhurst, 5 Mike Madden, 6 A Luckhurst, 7 P Turner, 8 S Long, 9 Mary Ann Kennedy, 10 A Newkirk, 11 D Shuter, 12 Mr P Turner, 13 P Turner, 14 Chris Forde, 15 James Kennedy, 16 A Luckhurst, 17 P Turner, 18 Malcolm Jackson, 19 G Dolan, 20 Mr M Jones, 21 P Turner, 22 P Bow, 23 P Bee, 24 Barba Papa a la Bacon, 25 D Walker, 26 P Turner, 27 P Turner, 28 Mr D Burch, 29 N Whedley, 30 A Luckhurst, 31 P Turner, 32 D Brown, 33 Graeme Dabnor, 34 P Turner, 35 A Luckhurst, 36 N Bennett, 37 Jennifer Dwyer, 38 Susan Mair, 39 J Hunt, 40 J Heasler, 41 P Riess, 42 G Price, 43 Mary Ann Kennedy, 44 Chris Forde, 45 Graeme Dabnor, 46 Tim Oldfield, 47 B Bara, 48 James Tan, 49 M Lindquist, 50 Andrew Bates, 51 B Fitzpatrick, 52 M Wainwright, 53 Mike Madden, 54 T Gardner, 55 Mr D Patel, 56 P Turner, 57 S Birchfield, 58 J Hunt, 59 R Lockyer, 60 T Garrage, 61 A Hastings, 62 P Turner, 63 Michael Moran, 64 Graeme Dabnor, 65 Mr D Patel, 66 P Turner, 67 G Reinbow, 68 D Brown, 69 Andy Robson, 70 D Forton, 71 Mr D Patel, 72 Baloo, 73 J Murray, 74 Mr N Wheatley, 75 V Coe, 76 Kean R Patel, 77 Michael Huddleston, 78 J Hunt, 79 S Whitfield, 80 DM Carter, 81 Mike Allison, 82 W Clark, 83 I Ralph, 84 M Fox, 85 P Turner, 86 J Sanderson, 87 JM Worthington, 88 Mrs A Staszewicz, 89 Douby, 90 P Turner, 91 P Turner, 92 D Shuter, 93 D Shuter, 94 Colin Bennett, 95 Mr M Jones, 96 Ian Jones, 97 K Farhall, 98 Philip Ward, 99 Joe Jones, 100 I Clayton.

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Name, Points. 1 Steve Potts, 2 Simon Grayson, 3 Paul Simpson, 4 Jonathan Hunt, 5 AJ-Ingo Healden, 6 John Salako, 7 Patrick Sargeant, 8 Rob Savage, 9 David Babby, 10 Robert Lee, 11 Richard Shaw, 12 Teddy Sheringham, 13 Nigel Martyn, 14 David Tuttle, 15 Dean Blackwell, 16 Dave Watson, 17 Nicky Butt, 18 Eamon Kavanagh, 19 Phil Bardsley, 20 Kevin Gallacher, 21 Chris Powell, 22 Kyle Lighthourne, 23 Paul Williams, 24 Andy Townsend, 25 David Seaman, 26 Gary Mowbray, 27 Andrew Liddell, 28 Tim Brecher, 29 Roger Cross, 30 Kenny Cunningham, 31 Ian Pearce, 32 Lee Dixon, 33 John Bernards, 34 Robin Van Der Laan, 35 David Stockham, 36 Steve Hoddinott, 37 Colin Hendry, 38 N Bennett, 39 Nicky Dwyer, 40 Ugo Ehiogu, 41 Gareth Southgate, 42 Kevin Muscat, 43 Andy Roberts, 44 Darren Fletcher, 45 Frank Lampard, 46 Richard Johnson, 47 Roger Cross, 48 Graeme Le Saux, 49 David Weir, 50 Steve Carr, 51 Forster Keown, 52 Gary Mabbutt, 53 Kevin Nicholson, 54 Danny Williamson, 55 Neil Redmond, 56 Michael Castellino, 57 Ian Dowie, 58 Gary Southgate, 59 John Salako, 60 Spencer Pflor, 61 J Hunt, 62 Jason East, 63 Mark Wright, 64 Robbie Foster, 65 Colin Calderwood, 66 Lee Sharpe, 67 Lee Sharpe, 68 Alan Shearer, 69 Gary Neville, 70 Alan Shearer, 71 Mike Whitlow, 72 West Ham United, 73 Aston Villa, 74 Derby County/Wolves, 75 Derby County, 76 Leeds United, 77 Coventry City, 78 Liverpool, 79 Leicester City, 80 Newcastle United, 81 Newcastle United, 82 Manchester United, 83 Manchester United, 84 Arsenal, 85 Arsenal, 86 Barnsley, 87 Barnsley, 88 Tottenham Hotspur, 89 Tottenham Hotspur, 90 Tottenham Hotspur, 91 Tottenham Hotspur, 92 Tottenham Hotspur, 93 Tottenham Hotspur, 94 Tottenham Hotspur, 95 Tottenham Hotspur, 96 Tottenham Hotspur, 97 Tottenham Hotspur, 98 Tottenham Hotspur, 99 Tottenham Hotspur, 100 Tottenham Hotspur.

FA CUP LEAGUE

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Name, Points. 1 Mr M Jones, 2 Mr M Jones, 3 Susan Melkin, 4 Mr P Turner, 5 Jon Pregon, 6 Mr P Turner, 7 Susan Melkin, 8 Mr P Turner, 9 H & S Management, 10 G Dolan, 11 K Farhall, 12 Susan Melkin, 13 J Hunt, 14 P Tudor, 15 Mr K Lathby, 16 Mrs A Staszewicz, 17 Alexander Kennedy, 18 Mr P Turner, 19 T Whitley, 20 Mrs A Staszewicz, 21 Jb1, 22 Spud for the Cup, 23 To B Cup, 24 FA Cup, 25 To W Cup, 26 Spud, 27 To D Cup, 28 Cup's In The Bag, 29 Claret Sky, 30 Kai, 31 September Spud, 32 John Hunt FA Cup B, 33 K'n Up's Cup, 34 K48, 35 R.A.S. Murtaz, 36 Three Tiddlers, 37 To A Cup, 38 Plague, 39 L.R.S.K.S. Longname.

Exclusive World Cup ticket offer. Today The Times offers readers the chance to see England's first game in the World Cup, against Tunisia, on June 15. Prices are per person flying on a private charter and returning the same day. England v Tunisia From £434. Return flight to Marseille from Gatwick. Category 3 match ticket. Transfers in France. Airport tax. Accompanied by bilingual staff. Flight and transfers for £354 (official ticket holders only). To book your trip, call BAC SPORT on 0171-456 7107.

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# When your team is hamstrung by injury

### Clubs with battered and bruised players... games hard to predict... but what does it mean for ITF?

It may yet prove to be the key moment of the season in the FA Cup Premier League: the 88th minute of the Manchester United v Arsenal match, when Peter Schmeichel stretched in an effort to tackle Dennis Bergkamp but only succeeded in tearing the hamstring in his left leg, an injury which puts him out for up to five weeks.

The implications for interactive Team Football are obvious. Manchester United players in your team may well find these points harder to come by in forthcoming games against Wimbledon, Liverpool, Blackburn and Newcastle. Schmeichel, the leading points-scorer in the ITF lists, and an automatic choice as goalkeeper in many of the most successful entrants' selections, will now miss a number of opportunities to add to his considerable points tally.

The irony will not have been lost on regular readers of this page that Schmeichel was on his way back from a foray in search of an equalising goal, which would have been worth a 20-point bonus to anyone with him in their team and which he was by far the favourite to attain.

Now, however, a judgment has to be made as to whether to bring in a new goalkeeper, using up a valuable transfer, or to wait and see if Schmeichel recovers faster



than expected? And who is to say that injury will not strike the new man? After all, David Seaman of Arsenal and England was another popular choice among ITF competitors, but he has also been injured.

Injuries are a fact of football life, of course, and despite

improved recovery times thanks to better treatment techniques, can rob teams of key performers in an instant. Manchester United already know all about that, having lost Roy Keane to ligament damage in a home game with Leeds. He is most unlikely to play again before next season.

Even squads who have a tradition of avoiding serious injury, like Liverpool, have suffered, losing Jason McAteer and Robbie Fowler to long-term problems.

The contrast in fortunes in north London is especially marked. Tottenham have had so many players under treatment for so long that it can appear that they are labouring under some type of curse. Les Ferdinand, Darren Anderton (cruelly nicknamed "stick-note"), John Scales and others have all spent periods on the injured list.

Seaman apart, the Arsenal regime of physical preparation instituted by Arsene Wenger seems to have helped restrict player damage, and Wenger's French connections allowed Tony Adams to recover early from a combination of ankle and back problems.

The implication is that an Arsenal player could prove a better investment than a Spurs man for the ITF entrant who wants to save his transfers for vital tactical decisions instead of emergency team surgery.



Grim faces: Schmeichel is helped from the field after injuring his hamstring

### THIS WEEK'S MOVES

**IN**  
61002 Attilio Lombardo Crystal Palace £0.75m

**OUT**  
61001 Steve Coppell Crystal Palace £0.75m

**MOVE**  
31001 Andy Roberts Wimbledon £1.50m  
Transferred from Crystal Palace

### HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

TEAMS registered from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.  
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FA	Lg(w)	Tot
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	1.50	0	2	-2	28
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	13	0	70
10301	M Boscich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	18	5	77
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	11	4	-13
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	4.00	0	9	2	57
10601	K Branagan	Bolton	1.50	0	0	-2	37
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0	0	0
10801	J Gould	Celtic	3.00	0	9	2	88
10901	E Goey	Chelsea	3.00	0	-9	0	66
11001	S Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	0
11101	C Nash	C Palace	0.25	0	0	0	0
11201	K Miller	C Palace	2.00	0	23	-13	35
11301	M Poom	Derby County	2.50	0	8	-9	72
11401	S Dykstra	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	0	0	0
11501	J Westwater	Durhamline	1.00	0	-2	-5	-10
11601	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	0
11701	T Myhrre	Everton	2.00	0	0	8	11
11801	G Rousseau	Hearns	3.50	0	11	2	69
11901	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	-8
12001	O Gottschalk	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	-1
12101	G Marshall	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	-1	2	3
12201	N Marlyn	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	13	16	115
12301	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	0	3	-3	67
12401	D James	Liverpool	4.00	0	-5	0	77
12501	P Schmeichel	Man Utd	5.00	0	-1	4	131
12601	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0	0	0
12701	S Given	Newcastle	3.00	0	11	7	46
12801	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	15	4	56
12901	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	5	-5	14
13001	P Jones	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	0	-7	37
13101	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	6	-2	59
13201	I Walker	Tottenham	2.50	0	3	0	22
13301	L Mitkovic	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	4
13401	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	15	5	87

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FA	Lg(w)	Tot
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-1	2	2
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	2	9	41
30301	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	5	10	26
30401	G Gilmardi	Arsenal	2.00	0	10	0	39
30501	S Burt	Arsenal	3.00	0	0	0	27
30601	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	4	-1	25
30701	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	7	1	35
30801	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	4	0	-14
30901	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	2	4	-15
31001	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	1	0	-9
31101	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	0	4	-4	36
31201	S Henchoz	Blackburn	3.00	0	3	-3	29
31301	T Pedersen	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	0	2
31401	G Taggart	Bolton	1.50	0	0	0	0
31501	G Bergsson	Bolton	1.00	0	0	0	17
31601	C Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0	0	-11	-11
31701	E Anzoni	Bolton	1.50	0	0	0	10
31801	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	3
31901	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	5	0	64
32001	R Rieper	Celtic	3.00	0	6	0	54
32101	F Labouef	Chelsea	3.00	0	-5	-1	33
32201	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	-4	-1	18
32301	S Clark	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	4	12
32401	G Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	0	-5
32501	C Fairclough	Coventry City	1.50	0	7	0	59
32601	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	8	0	23
32701	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	-11
32801	A Roberts	C Palace	1.50	0	13	4	23
32901	A Lintigh	C Palace	0.75	0	10	0	13
33001	D Lunn	C Palace	0.75	0	0	-2	-2
33101	H Hjarredsson	C Palace	1.00	0	13	-1	1
33201	I Stimpac	Derby County	2.50	0	4	-5	29
33301	J Laurson	Derby County	1.50	0	1	-5	19
33401	S Pressley	Durhamline	2.00	0	3	0	19
33501	C Snedden	Durhamline	1.00	0	0	0	-12
33601	S Bilic	Everton	1.50	0	0	5	-13
33701	D Watson	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	15
33801	C Tiler	Everton	1.50	0	0	4	20
33901	D Weir	Hearns	3.00	0	15	0	39
34001	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	0	0	-11
34101	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	10	5	50
34201	G Hallie	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	5	9	37
34301	R Mojanar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	14	5	38
34401	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	9	9	36
34501	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0	1	0	52
34601	P Keanmark	Leicester City	2.00	0	3	0	52
34701	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.00	0	-2	-1	31
34801	S Prior	Leicester City	2.50	0	5	-1	20
34901	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	5
35001	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	-2	-2	34
35101	K Varnie	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1	0	29
35201	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	-1	-3
35301	H Berg	Man Utd	3.50	0	1	0	44
35401	D May	Man Utd	3.50	0	0	-1	6
35501	G Palfister	Man Utd	3.50	0	-4	0	51
35601	P Albert	Newcastle	2.50	0	2	3	18
35701	D Peacock	Newcastle	3.00	0	4	0	10
35801	S Howe	Newcastle	2.00	0	6	4	20
35901	A Platone	Newcastle	3.00	0	8	4	27
36001	S Porritt	Rangers	3.50	0	-1	0	43
36101	J Bjorkland	Rangers	3.50	0	7	2	42
36201	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0	0	0
36301	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	0	6	0	14
36401	D Walker	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	3	-2	9
36501	P Newsome	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	3	-4	21
36601	G Whittingham	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	3	2	14
36701	R Dryden	Sheff Wed	1.00	0	0	0	0
36801	C Lundelvam	Southampton	1.50	0	0	-5	12
36901	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-1	-3	9
37001	S McCheskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	0	0	10
37101	C Campbell	Tottenham	2.00	0	3	-2	16
37201	J Scales	Tottenham	1.50	0	0	0	1
37301	R Vega	Tottenham	1.50	0	-2	2	9
37401	C Calderwood	Tottenham	1.50	0	4	0	21
37501	R Ferdinand	West Ham	2.50	0	1	1	17
37601	R Half	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	0
37701	D Unsworth	West Ham	2.00	0	2	4	24
37801	S Potts	West Ham	1.50	0	0	1	10
37901	I Pearce	West Ham	2.00	0	5	1	19
38001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	8	0	29
38101	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	3	0	25

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FA	Lg(w)	Tot
40605	J Pollock	Bolton	2.00	0	1	0	37
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	12
42503	R Bliniker	Celtic	3.00	0	2	0	24
40704	C Buryley	Celtic	4.00	0	8	1	76
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	2.00	0	6	1	42
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50	0	5	43	
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	0	1	43
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	2	16
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	0	0	28
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0	0	0	20
40902	T Soltau	Coventry City	1.50	0	5	2	43
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	15	
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	8	2	34
40905	G Soereng	Coventry City	1.50	0	2	2	12
41002	S Rodgers	C Palace	1.00	0	6	3	36
41003	D Pittcher	C Palace	0.25	0	0	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	C Palace	1.50	0	3	0	34
41005	A Lombardo	C Palace	3.00	0	0	0	22
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50	0	1	0	38
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	3	1	21
41104	C Dally	Derby County	1.50	0	0	0	25
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	0	0	8
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	1	1	18
41201	P Winters	Durhamline	2.00	0	0	0	28
41301	A Smith	Durhamline	3.50	0	27	1	91
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	1	0	21
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	19
41405	J Ooster	Everton	2.50	0	-1	3	11
41406	D Hutchison	Everton	2.00	0	0	3	2
41501	N McCann	Hearns	3.50	0	7	1	78
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	0	0	19
41701	J McClarty	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0	0	5
41801	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	2	3	42
41802	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	8	12	41
41803	A Haaland	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	2	12	48
41804	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0	0	0
41805	B Ribeiro	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	4	0	24
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	7	0	32
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	0	0	0	52
41903	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0	0	55
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00	0	1	7	84
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	1	46
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	14
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0	4	1	44
42005	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00	0	0	4	50
42101	D Beckham	Man Utd	8.00	0	12	2	63
42102	R Giggs	Man Utd	7.00	0	9	3	73
42103	R Keane	Man Utd	5.00	0	0	0	23
42104	N Butt	Man Utd	4.00	0	2		

NEWS

Aitken to offer himself for arrest

Jonathan Aitken will offer himself for arrest today over allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice arising from the collapse of his libel case last year.

Britain climbs down over Cook visit

The British Government gave in to Israeli pressure and agreed that Robin Cook would today visit the disputed settlement of Har Homa with an Israeli rather than a Palestinian escort.

Spock dies at 94

Benjamin Spock, the best-known baby doctor in the Western world, has died, apparently impoverished. He was 94.

Prisoner strangled

The man found dead in his cell at Northern Ireland's Maze Prison on Sunday had been savagely beaten and strangled.

Blunkett concession

David Blunkett announced the first concession over the Government's plans to impose student tuition fees in an attempt to head off a damaging Labour revolt.

Stepfather accused

A girl aged 9 taken from her bed in the middle of the night was killed by her stepfather who concealed the body in a badger sett and then joined in the search.

Newcastle demand

Tony Banks called on the chairman of Newcastle United Football Club and a colleague to deny newspaper reports of sexual high jinks and insulting comments about fans and players.

Lords' crisis

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, was back in his office from Barbados trying to limit the damage done to the game after last week's industrial tribunal.

Goodnight children, everywhere

Radio programming specifically for children is to be dropped from Radio 4 and religious broadcasting re-scheduled under changes intended to make the station more popular.

Case closed

A judge will rubber-stamp the sudden end of the £180 million lawsuit between Prince Jefri of Brunei and his former friends, Bob and Rafi Manoukian.

'Mad cow' secrecy

Up to 250,000 cattle were needlessly infected with "mad cow" disease because of secrecy at the Ministry of Agriculture, the BSE inquiry was told.

Men want the Pill

Two thirds of men would use a male contraceptive pill, if one were proven and available today, a survey in Edinburgh has shown.

Clinton setback

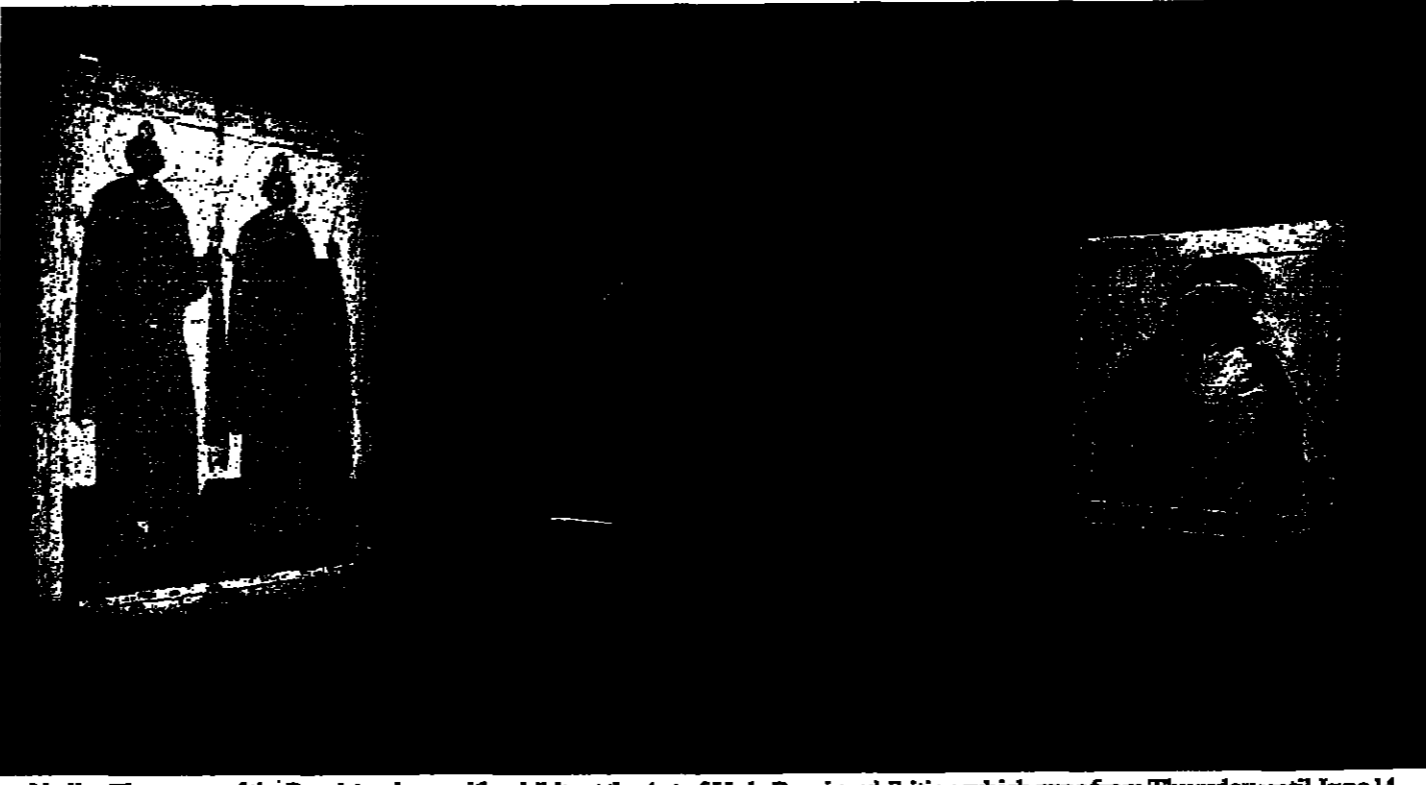
Leading American feminists, in a sharp change of tone with serious political implications for President Clinton, accused him of sexual assault.

Vatican repents

The Vatican released its long-awaited "definitive statement" condemning anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism and repenting for Roman Catholic passivity during the Nazi Holocaust.

Leader embarrassed

China's hardline outgoing Prime Minister, Li Peng, was elected chairman of the legislature but 200 delegates embarrassed the leader closely associated with the Tiananmen Square killings by voting against him.



Nadine Thompson of the Royal Academy with exhibits at the Art of Holy Russia exhibition which runs from Thursday until June 14

BUSINESS

Defence: GEC is poised to use its cash mountain to bid for pieces of Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, the aerospace groups whose \$12 billion merger has flown into turmoil.

Monorail: Surrey County Council will this week give the green light to a £9 million monorail through the centre of Guildford to be built by a group famous for white knuckle rides.

Savings: The Government is expected to grant six million savers with Tassas and Peps a last-minute reprieve.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 2.8 to 5785.1. Sterling was unchanged at 106.8 after falls from \$1.6705 to \$1.6655 and from DM3.0348 to DM3.0329.

SPORT

Cricket: The fifth Test was washed out when West Indies were 112 for two, 262 behind England who cannot now win the series.

Football: Paul Gascoigne was not included in England's squad for the match against Switzerland. Glenn Hoddle, the coach, said he was concerned about Gascoigne's fitness.

Tennis: David Lloyd, the captain, has received assurances from Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman that personal differences will not compromise Britain's Davis Cup prospects.

Racing: Aidan O'Brien can underline his reputation as an outstanding trainer under both codes by sending out Istabraq to victory in the Champion Hurdle.

ARTS

Top form: On Saturday the wraps come off an old Victorian school in Birmingham to reveal its new lease of life as home to the Ikon Art Gallery.

Radical surgery: The Surgeon of Honour, Calderón de la Barca's complex tale of betrayal, guilt and honour, is revived at the Playhouse in Southwark.

New Ring: After singing Wagner all around the world, Malcolm Rivers and Paul Crook are launching their vision of The Ring in Leicester this weekend.

Birthday boy: Pierre Boulez and the London Symphony Orchestra say happy 90th birthday to the American composer Elliott Carter in a teasing concert at the Barbican.

FEATURES

Sweet dreams: Sleep disorders can kill: the third extract from The Sleep Solution.

Smoke alarm: Cannabis often gets a near-clean bill of health but there can be dangers, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford.

Easy does it: How a stress relief programme in the office is helping Barclays Bank.

Claim game: If even a lawyer has trouble with the small claims court, does it need reforming?

Winner: The winning essay in The Times Law Awards, by Adam Speker, a student at the College of Law.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE Web attack: the altered images that companies can do without

HOMES Where to buy a crumbling pile: Rachel Kelly reports from the shires

RADIO & TV

Preview: John Thaw's barrister defends a doctor accused of murder. Kavanagh QC (ITV, 8.30pm). Review: Joe Joseph calls for more light on Dickens. Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Gun law The security lapses at the Maze prison are more than misfortunes. They are an appalling commentary on the way in which government has placed the priorities of terrorists above principle. Page 19

Cook in boots The aim of Robin Cook's visit to Israel was to explore the scope for a more active EU strategy. The sandstorm over his "viewing" of Har Homa has all but eclipsed the main purpose. Page 19

Listen to mothers To a whole generation of postwar mothers, Benjamin Spock was close to God. Page 19

LIBBY PURVES So we opened yesterday's papers to the awful sight of Gordon Brown, his girlfriend, some Teletubbies t-shirt, and a child with an expression ranging from preoccupied to downright miserable. Page 18

ANATOLE KALETSKY By spending paltry amounts of money on "middle-class perks", of which free museums are an example, Mr Brown has been able to achieve vital objectives. Page 18

SHEILA LAWLOR Were Mr Blair to be as bold in his general dealings with the universities as he has been in educating his children, he would opt to set the universities free from the Department for Education and the Treasury - to teach, to charge, to set standards, to compete. Page 18

PETER RIDDELL Gordon Brown's new Code for Fiscal Stability is yet another attempt to impose virtue by formal rules - admirable in intention but likely to be flawed in execution. Page 6

Dr Benjamin Spock, child care expert: Hugh Conway, Irish minister. Major David Gibson, senior National Hunt steward. Page 21

Drugs in prisons; parking tax; millennium bug; flexible employment; Gordon Brown; sleep. Page 19

Advertisement for 'Wash Your Blues Away' featuring a bottle of 'Ruzor' detergent. The text says 'Wash Your Blues Away!' and 'Ruzor'.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,741

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS
1 Elderly former pupil sent back to wine-cellar (6).
4 Island where you'll find fish? Yes, heading West (5).
10 With in empty part of house (9).
11 Crimean War conference location (5).
12 As it is, a dangerous substance (7).
13 Executes painting showing growing environment (7).
14 Historic Texan building in style of another state (5).
15 Caligula claimed he had such a forgiving nature? (5).
18 Conservative's time to lament, far from happy (4-4).
20 At which point we must admit she's objective (5).
23 Exceptional case of layman somehow entering inner circle (7).
25 Socially acceptable element? (7).
26 Vote with the opposition party (5).
27 For the most part, like a wet Frankfurter? (2,3,4).
28 Having no responsibility for such cheap goods (4-4).
29 Tinker inserting peg of strong alloy (6).

Answers to the crossword puzzle, including words like 'PARSIMONIOUS', 'COTTON PRATTNER', 'DROOPY REPAIRER', 'CELLULAR BRIGHT', 'LITERARY SKEWER', 'RENEW IMITATIVE', 'DRAGONISLEET'.

INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0320 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0320 401 410
M5 and M6 0320 401 746
M25 and Link Roads 0320 401 748
National Motorways 0320 401 748
Continental Europe 0320 401 910
Channel crossing 0320 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0320 407 505

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day time: Leicester: East 14C; Lowest day time: Lincoln: 10C; Highest night time: Lincoln: 6.9C; Highest sunrise: Torquay: 6.9C

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up of 41% of the new material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

OWPA Western Provender Association. BEWARE OF UNDER COVER OPERATIONS. Western Provender Association FREECALL 0500 41 42 43

FORECAST

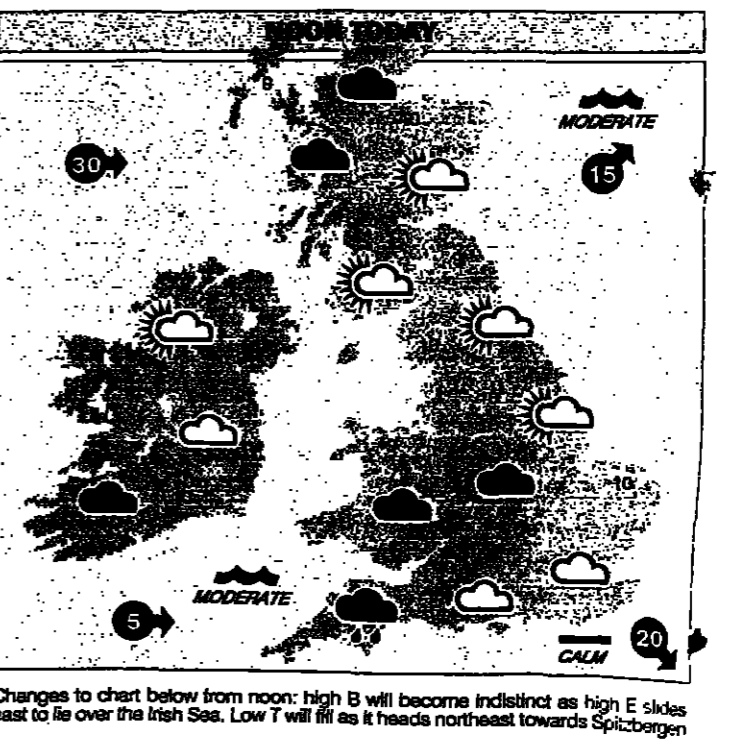
General: Northern England and North Wales fine with sunny periods developing. The rest of England and Wales will start mostly cloudy with a little drizzle, but sunnier spells will spread from the north, reaching the south coast in the late afternoon. Northern Scotland will start dry but it will become increasingly wet and windy. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland dry and bright with the best of the sunny spells in the east. The Irish Republic will start cloudy and misty with rain; drier later. Tonight, England and Wales will have patches of mist. Scotland will also be mainly dry and the wind will gradually ease across the far north. London, SE, Cent S, SW England: Starting rather cloudy with patchy drizzle but brightening up in the afternoon to give some late sunny spells. Light NW wind. Max 14C (57F). E Anglia, Midlands, E England, Wales: Cloudy at first but sunny spells will develop. Light northwest wind. Max 15C (59F). Channel Is: Rather dull and cloudy, with a drizzle possible. Light northwest wind. Max 12C (54F). NW, Cent N, NE England, Lakes, Isle: Mild with patchy cloud and sunny spells. Light west to northwest wind. Max 15C (59F). Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Some cloud, a few showers possible but mainly dry with sunny spells. Moderate to fresh west wind. Max 14C (57F). Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Cloudy, showery rain. Fresh to strong southwesterly wind. Max 13C (55F). Cant Highlands, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Overcast and windy, rain at times. Strong to gale force southwesterly wind. Max 10C (50F). N Ireland: Mild with patchy cloud and sunny spells. Light west wind. Max 14C (57F). Republic of Ireland: Cloudy and misty at first with rain in places, chiefly in the north and west. The rain will die out as it moves south; sunny intervals. Moderate westerly wind. Max 12C (54F). Outlook: Mostly dry and settled with some warm sunshine by day, but chilly overnight with a risk of fog.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

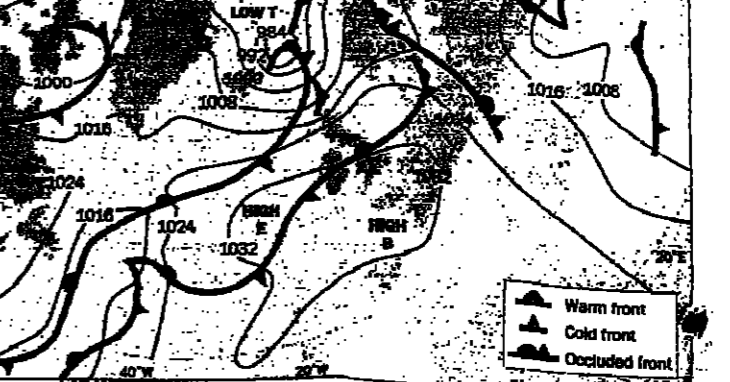
Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns include location, sun, rain, max, min, wind, and other weather details.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad. Columns include location, sun, rain, max, min, wind, and other weather details.



Changes to chart below from noon: high B will become indistinct as high E slides east to its over the Irish Sea. Low T will fill as it heads northeast towards Spitzbergen



Changes to chart below from noon: high B will become indistinct as high E slides east to its over the Irish Sea. Low T will fill as it heads northeast towards Spitzbergen

Table showing tide and sunrise/sunset times. Columns include location, tide times, and sunrise/sunset times.

# THE TIMES

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TODAY



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cultural Ikon  
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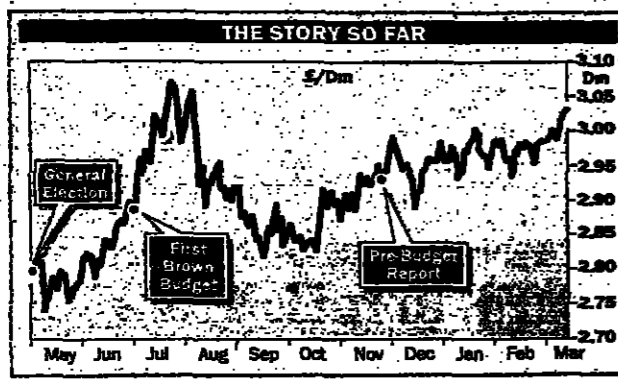


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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft TUESDAY MARCH 17 1998

## Reprieve on cards for Pep and Tessa investors



THE Government is today expected to give a last-minute reprieve to the six million people with savings in Tessa and Peps. Under revised plans for the individual savings account (Isa), the tax-free replacement for the two schemes, existing Tessa and Peps will be "ring-fenced" from future taxation, with the new Isa starting from April 1999. However, the controversial £50,000 contribution limit for savings in the Isa will remain, as will annual limits of £5,000 on tax-free saving.

Under the original proposals for Isas, existing Peps and Tessas were to be rolled over into the new account. Any investments over the £50,000 limit would have become subject to income tax and capital gains tax. The reprieve will benefit between 300,000 and 600,000 people who were already over the £50,000 limit.

The original proposals, delivered by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, attracted a deluge of criticism. Many of those who had more than £50,000 saved had been putting money into Peps rather than a pension.

Proposals for the Isa itself are also expected to be revised. The Government is believed to favour a two-tier structure, with mini Isas containing cash only being sold through supermarkets and building societies, while maxi Isas where contributions are put into cash, life insurance and equities will be offered by fund management and life insurance companies.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5785.1 (+2.8)
FTSE All share	2215.1 (+2.2)
Nikkei	15861.14 (+198.00)
New York	
Dow Jones	8571.77 (+69.25)*
S&P Composite	1078.07 (+7.46)*
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	102 7/8% (103 1/8%)
Yield	5.87% (6.00%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7 1/8% (7 1/8%)
6-month Interbank	10 1/8% (10 1/8%)
3-month Bill	10 1/8% (10 1/8%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5885* (1.5707)
London	1.5885 (1.5705)
DM	3.0525 (3.0347)
FF	10.1850 (10.1850)
SFr	2.4698 (2.4681)
Yen	159.64 (157.82)
£ Index	106.8 (106.8)
DOLLAR	
London	1.5810* (1.5710)
DM	6.1975* (6.1000)
SFr	1.4822* (1.4750)
Yen	159.64 (157.82)
£ Index	106.8 (106.8)
Tokyo close Yen	129.15
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (May)	\$12.65 (\$13.05)
London close	\$294.55 (\$295.35)

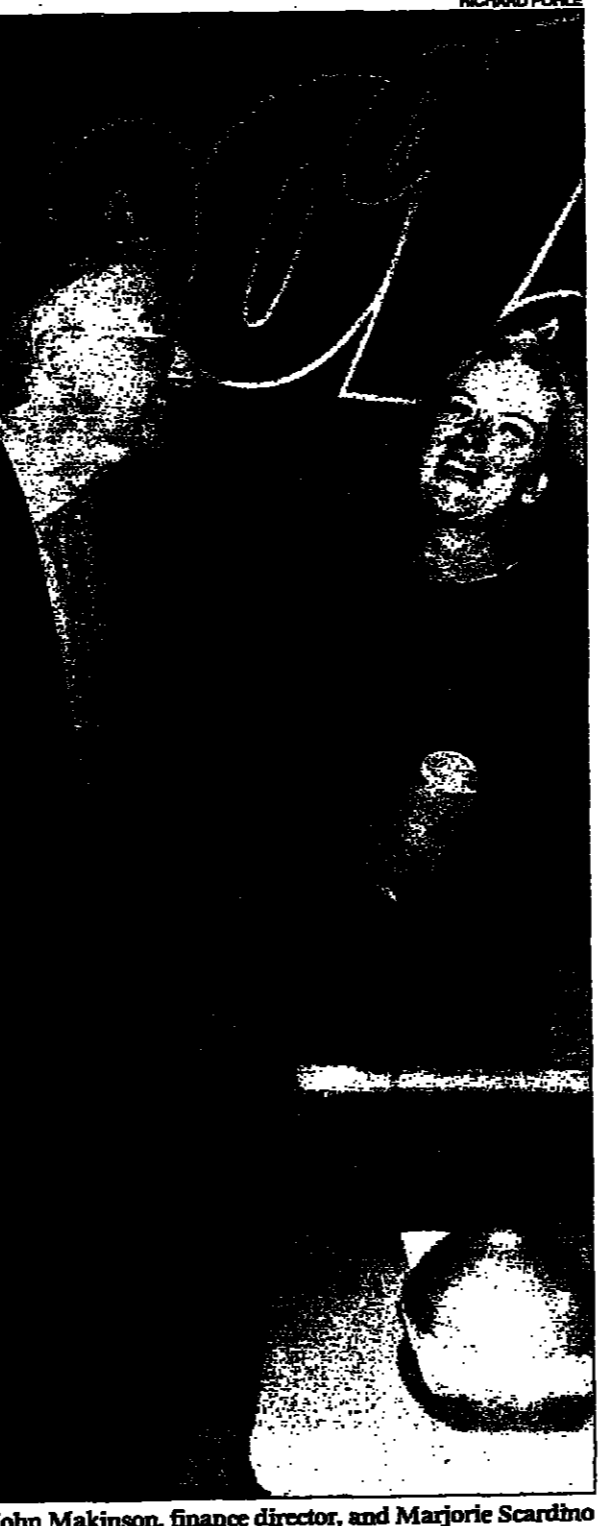
## GEC trains sights on US targets

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK AND ADAM JONES IN LONDON

GEC is poised to use its cash mountain to bid for pieces of Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, the two aerospace groups whose \$12 billion (£7.2 billion) merger has flown into regulatory turbulence. Executives at the British electronics group are understood to be preparing an approach to Lockheed and Northrop with bids for specific units. Their move comes as the US Justice Department in Washington presses for spin-offs in return for granting approval for the merger. Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, managing director of GEC, is looking for acquisitions to revamp the defence-to-fridges group. Last year, he announced a new strategy, demerging the trains business and focusing on Marconi, the defence electronics unit.

Under Lord Simpson's leadership, GEC has built a cash mountain worth £1.2 billion. The group increased its firepower for a deal in February by arranging £4 billion of standby debt facilities - denominated in euros - with a panel of banks. However, the City has been disappointed with the lack of bold acquisitions, while GEC was upset by its failure to win the Siemens-Plessey defence electronics business, which was eventually bought by British Aerospace and Daimler-Benz Aerospace of Germany.

GEC has followed with interest the surprise battle between the two US groups, whose union had been seen as a *fait accompli* by some, including the Justice Department. According to a senior defence source, Lord Simpson is "ready to open the war chest" and approach the groups with cash bids. "There could be some opportunities for us," the Justice Department is insisting on large-scale divestments at Lockheed and Northrop and has suggested a range of businesses to choose from. The department wants the two to cut at least \$1.75 billion in annual revenues. One of the businesses on the department's wish list is said to be Northrop's defence electronics unit, which would be an almost ideal fit with Marconi's existing businesses. The department is said to be particularly concerned about the merged group's dominance in the radar sector, a key market for GEC.



John Makinson, finance director, and Marjorie Scardino

## Pearson chief on course for double-digit growth target

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

MARJORIE SCARDINO, chief executive of Pearson, the information and entertainment group, yesterday met the first of her self-imposed targets to produce double-digit earnings growth for five years in a row. Pearson announced a 14 per cent rise in adjusted earnings to 34.9p a share in the year to December 31. "We have delivered the first year of double-digit earnings growth we promised," Mrs Scardino said. However, she appeared to be a little more cautious about a second forecast to double the value of the company over five years. When she first made the forecast a year ago the shares stood at 660p. Even though the company has made good progress towards that goal - the shares closed at 951p yesterday, down 16p - Mrs Scardino talked of doubling the value of the company "over time". Operating profit rose 15 per cent to £323 million on sales up 5 per cent to £2.29 billion. Pre-tax profit fell to £129 million from £357 million, largely as a result of the pruning and restructuring of the company. The 1996 figures contained £21 million in profit from the sale of Westminster Press and the 1997 results had a loss of £180 million, largely because of a write-off on Mindscape, the electronic games company now being sold.

Although Mrs Scardino declined to talk about disposals, Future Publishing, the company's magazine group, is up for sale. Pearson's stake in Lazards, the merchant bank, contributed £43.1 million, compared with £40.8 million in 1996. Analysts are now looking at operating profit of about £380 million for the current year - £335 million pre-tax, excluding the proceeds from any sales. Mrs Scardino said Pearson was now moving towards being an integrated company with the advantages of group purchasing. Other highlights included a strong performance at the FT Group where operating profit rose from £88.2 million to £107 million and in entertainment where there was a 93 per cent increase in profit to £17 million, boosted by the acquisition on the television side of All American, which owns *Baywatch*, the lifeguard soap, and *The Price is Right*, the game show, and the integration of Putnam Berkley, the publisher, with Penguin.

### Mutual friend

The Yorkshire Building Society, Britain's fourth largest building society, made a case for the mutual movement. Page 32

### Moving on

One of the City's top transport analysts is on the move. Page 32. Because of our Budget preview, page 31, the marketing column will appear tomorrow.

### BTR incurs £520m loss on disposals

BTR, the troubled engineering group, yesterday recorded a £520 million loss after selling its Formica laminates business and Australian building products operations to a management buyout. A team backed by CVC Capital Partners is putting up £650 million for the two businesses, which have suffered from falling sales and turnover in the last couple of years. Since September BTR has raised £3.4 billion from the disposal of businesses with sales of only £2.35 billion. It has yet to sell subsidiaries with annual turnover of more than £500 million. BTR said this month that up to £2 billion of the cash raised would be returned to shareholders. The sale price represents 14 times post-tax earnings and was at the top end of the City's expectations. However, BTR has to write off around £600 million of goodwill. It only bought Formica in 1994, paying \$617 million (£370 million) - and less than three years ago it paid more than £2 billion to buy out the minority shareholders in BTR Nylex.

## Monorail arrives in Guildford

BY JASON NISSE



Superman Escapes: built by Swiss

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL will this week give the green light to a £9 million monorail through the centre of Guildford to be built by a group famous for white-knuckle rides. Inzamin, the Swiss firm that designed the futuristic scheme, has built more than a dozen amusement park rides in the UK, including Rapids Ride at Alton Towers, as well as Superman Escapes at Universal Studios in Florida. In that ride customers are hurtled backwards down a 100-metre drop at speeds reaching 160kph. Drivers may feel this is preferable to being stuck in Guildford's infamous one-way system. The planned monorail is similar to ones in use in the US, Brazil, Germany and Thailand. It involves small, electrically powered carriages with rubber tyres

running on a monorail track either at ground level or sweeping above traffic. Carr West, a privately owned transport consultancy based in Guildford, has exclusive rights to the system in the UK, and it is being considered by 44 towns and cities including Swansea, Chester, Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester. Carr West is to show the scheme to MPs next month in the hope that increased use of monorails will be in the Transport White Paper this year. The Guildford scheme is due to be approved in principle this week and go before the full council in June. Carr West will fund the construction and the council will be given a 25 per cent stake in the operating company. Richard Savin, the group's managing director, said: "We are looking at areas where passenger streams are relatively low."

## ICA tribunal dismisses two former directors

BY JASON NISSE

MICHAEL STONEY, a former director of Mirror Group Newspapers who had fraud charges dismissed against him last year, and Peter Goldie, the former chief executive of British & Commonwealth Holdings (B&C), have been thrown out of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales. The action follows a hearing of the Accountants Joint Disciplinary Tribunal, which also saw a £100,000 penalty imposed on Spicer & Oppen-

heim, the accountants now part of Deloitte & Touche. The firm was censured for failing to qualify the accounts of Atlantic Computers, the leasing group which collapsed in 1990, after it did not spell out its contingent liabilities. Mr Goldie was also censured over Atlantic, which was bought by B&C in 1988 and whose problems led to the £1.2 billion collapse of the financial giant. Last year Mr Goldie was banned from being a director

for five years because of his actions at B&C. Mr Stoney, who was a director of MGN when it floated in 1991, was censured and banned as an accountant for his role in obtaining a £50 million loan for the group from Bankers Trust and then transferring the money to a Maxwell private company. Mr Stoney was charged with fraud over the loan, but was cleared last year when the courts ruled that the second Maxwell trial should not proceed.

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Based on a £100,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £200,000, repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 30/04/98. 48 gross monthly repayments of £323.28 at 6.99% (8.6% APR) until 1/2/2002 followed by 252 gross monthly repayments of £462.38 at the lender's normal variable base rate of 6.75% (8.25% APR). Total amount payable £137,403.11. Includes a £100,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £200,000, repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 30/04/98. 48 gross monthly repayments of £323.28 at 6.99% (8.6% APR) until 1/2/2002 followed by 252 gross monthly repayments of £462.38 at the lender's normal variable base rate of 6.75% (8.25% APR). Total amount payable £137,403.11. 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### Markets lifted by revalued currencies

By ALAN DAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN markets yesterday gave a warm welcome to revaluation of the Greek drachma and Irish punt, boosting the hopes of the countries that they will enjoy a smooth ride in the run-up to monetary union.

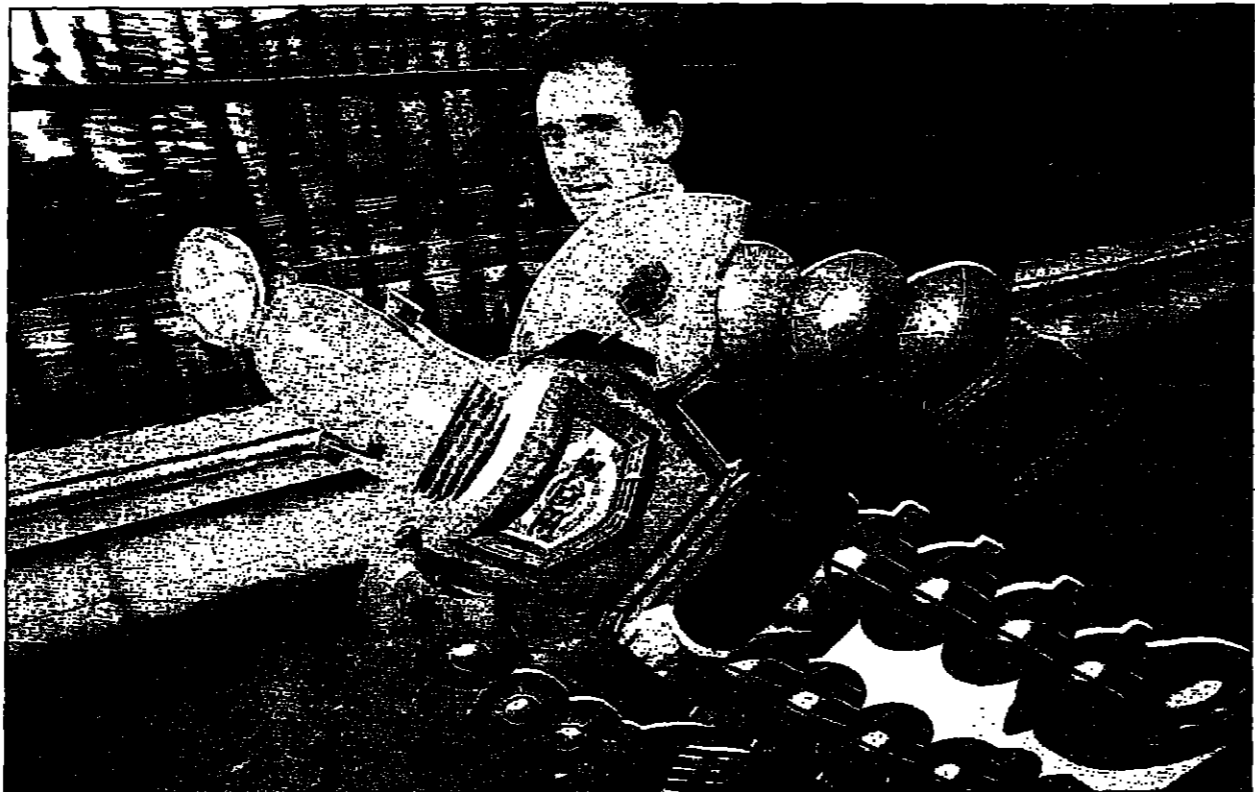
The drachma strengthened throughout the day closing at 347 ecu against its new exchange-rate mechanism central parity rate of 357 ecu.

The market was pleased that the Greek Government had coupled its decision to devalue by 14 per cent and rejoin the ERM with details of a tough fiscal package to help to put the country on track to meet single currency requirements by 2001. The package includes a raft of privatisation projects, labour market and social security reform and a commitment to wage restraint.

The Greek stock market closed up 7.31 per cent in heavy volume. Bond yields also fell by around two percentage points. Economists cautioned, however, that the Greek Government may find it difficult to keep the lid on inflation, currently at 5.9 per cent.

The punt also firmed slightly after the Irish Government's decision to raise its ERM central parity rate by 3 per cent. The punt closed at DM2,508 against the mark, slightly above the new central parity rate of DM2,48. Bonds also leapt on the news, although the decision of the Irish central bank to peg its key money market rate at 6.19 per cent limited gains in the afternoon.

Some economists also expressed concern that the Irish revaluation would prove insufficient. Julian Jessop, at Nikko Europe, said: "The key Irish interest rate is already too low for an economy growing by around 8 per cent a year. A stronger currency will be required to offset the unnecessary stimulus from even lower Irish rates when EMU starts."



James Wickes, managing director of Ideal, where trading is proving to be something of a roller-coaster ride

### Warning knocks Ideal price

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Ideal Hardware plunged from 505p to 385p after James Wickes, managing director, and the board warned the market that year-on-year profits growth will be difficult to achieve this year because of volatility in information technology markets.

Mr Wickes said the company continues to experience record weeks followed by "quite unacceptably" dull periods. As Ideal reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.5 million (£4.14 million), in the six months to January 31, the company said that it did not foresee stability returning to the market until late 1998. Earnings rose to 14.35p (12.88p) and the interim dividend to 5.75p (5.2p). Turnover rose to £110.4 million (£82.8 million). Brokers had expected a £1 million rise in full-year profits to £11.8 million.

## Shake-up of telecoms trio to deliver \$500m boost for BT

By JASON NISSE

BT is to receive a boost of up to \$500 million (£300 million) from the shake-up of three intergovernmental telecommunications groups, the first of which has just been approved.

The board of Inmarsat, in which BT has a 9 per cent stake, has given the go-ahead for a restructuring which will lead to a float valuing the business at up to \$2.5 billion.

Two similar groups — Eutelsat and Intelsat — are now due to follow suit.

The first fruit of the shake-up is expected to be the spinning off of Eutelsat's commercial operations, which will take place in the next year.

All three organisations are United Nations agencies funded by a panel of large telecoms firms. Comsat, the US group, is the largest shareholder in the trio with about 22 per cent.

BT is the second largest with about 8 per cent.

Inmarsat, which is based in London, was set up 17 years ago to provide communications for mariners but has expanded into the delivery of data to mobile phones and laptop computers. It owns nine satellites and has 107,000 international subscribers.

Its restructuring, which will turn the group into a private company registered in the UK,

was agreed by its board on Friday. However, it now has to be approved at a meeting of government ministers, scheduled for next month, and requires a series of international treaties to be amended.

The group estimates that this process should be completed by the end of this year and a float, backed by SBC Warburg Dillon Read, is due to take place before 2001.

Inmarsat — short for Inter-

national Marine Satellite — had annual sales of \$378 million in 1996, making profits of more than \$60 million, and is growing at more than 30 per cent a year. The group is in a commanding position to compete with the likes of Vodafone and WorldCom to provide satellite data communications worldwide.

City analysts estimate the group could be valued at as much as four times its turnover, which by the time it reaches the market should be around \$600 million, valuing Inmarsat at \$2.4 billion.

Such a valuation would give BT — which has invested around \$70 million in Inmarsat — a stake worth more than \$200 million.

Geoff King, BT's representative on the Inmarsat board and a former chairman of the group's council, said that the restructuring would allow Inmarsat to raise capital like a conventional company. He said there was no reason why the group could not bring in outside investors or raise money through a debt issue before the eventual float.

## Merger narrows field in US

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

A \$6 BILLION (£3.75 billion) merger of two American phone companies is narrowing the choice of US partners for BT. Alltel agreed to buy 360 Communications yesterday in a move that could also lead to unexpected support to the \$37 million merger of MCI and WorldCom.

The combination of Alltel and 360 Communications will create a new major competitor

in the Internet sector. The US Justice Department last week raised doubts about the WorldCom-MCI deal because of their dominance in Internet services. Analysts said that the emergence of a new strong competitor may reduce the Justice Department's antitrust fears.

Alltel-360 will also be a strong competitor in the mobile phone market as the deal

is set to create one of America's largest wireless carriers. Access to the Internet is expected to be easily available soon via mobile phone lines.

BT is continuing to search for a US partner after it was outbid by WorldCom for MCI, and is believed to be in talks with a number of smaller US phone groups. A swift approval of the WorldCom-MCI deal is in BT's interest

because it is owed \$7 billion by WorldCom for its 20 per cent MCI stake. The payment is due upon completion.

Alltel and 360 Communications said they are teaming up to expand their customer base, broaden services and to eliminate duplicated expenses.

The alliance will boost Alltel's annual revenue to \$4.5 billion.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

#### Chief resigns at troubled Staveley

ROY HITCHENS has resigned as chief executive of Staveley after the disaster-struck engineering and minerals group issued another profits warning and agreed to sell its measurement businesses at a loss of £79.8 million. Mr Hitchens is currently engaged in a legal wrangle over his £500,000 compensation. He was on a two-year rolling contract and was last year paid £593,000 — more than his fellow board directors put together — after a £314,000 pension lump sum.

Staveley is to sell Weigh-Tronix to a management buyout team at a loss of £26 million. The divestment of Chronos Richardson is expected to cost £51.6 million. The cost of paying off Mr Hitchens, redundancy costs at Chronos Richardson and the closure of unwanted offices will cost the company a further £3.6 million, which it said will take pre-tax profits from £16.6 million to £9.4 million for the year to March 31. It intends to hold the dividend at 9p, with a final 6.5p.

#### Accountants deal near

REGULATORS in Europe look set to approve the \$11 billion merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, largely because the other big accounting union is no longer going ahead. Soundings by the European Commission have unearthed little opposition to the deal. A spokesman said: "The conclusion is that the market situation does not justify the sending out of a statement of objections... mainly because the merger between KPMG and Ernst & Young has been called off." A final decision is expected later next month.

#### Emess to raise £10m

EMESS, the lighting group, is planning to raise about £10 million through disposals to reduce debts. Michael Meyer, chairman, said disposals would include some property, surplus assets and possibly one business. Emess announced a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £10 million for 1997, which was in line with expectations despite pressure from the strength of the pound and "difficult trading conditions". Earnings rose to 2.9p a share from 2.4p. The annual dividend is lifted to 0.6p from 0.4p.

#### Sale bolsters Rubicon

RUBICON shares rose from 163p to 186p after the engineering group announced the sale of its lead and specialist castings divisions for £61.7 million to Schroder Ventures. Rubicon will focus on electronic components and magnets manufacturing. Shareholder approval will be sought on March 31. Analysts said the sale would lead the market to "look carefully" at the rating of the shares. However, profit forecasts were downgraded for the year to May 31, from up to £19.5 million to about £18.5 million because of a loss of earnings.

#### Marshalls' profit falls

PRE-TAX profits for Marshalls, the building materials group, suffered a fall from £20.2 million to £14.5 million in the year to the end of December, on sales up from £212.3 million to £229 million. The company took an exceptional charge of £8 million after the sale of a discontinued operation. A final dividend of 2.5p gives a total of 4p, up 2.6 per cent. Earnings fell from 8.34p to 2.57p. The company said: "The current year has started well with strong trading helped by the mild weather." The shares rose 5p to 140p.

#### Gibbs & Dandy 5% up

ACQUISITIONS helped Gibbs & Dandy, the builder's merchant, to lift its 1997 operating profits by 41 per cent to £1.78 million on turnover, 31 per cent better, of £38.6 million. However, one-off reorganisation costs of £227,000 and a rise in the interest bill from the borrowings taken out to fund expansion restricted the pre-tax profits to £1.27 million, a rise of 5 per cent. Earnings per share were 10.8p (10.4p), or 12.7p before exceptional. A final dividend of 2.4p per share makes a total for the year of 4.0p (3.75p).

#### Smiths Ind disposals

SMITHS INDUSTRIES is raising £44 million through the sale of the product monitoring and environmental divisions of Graseby to America's Thermo Electron Corporation. The divisions were acquired by Smiths as part of its £136 million takeover of Graseby at the end of 1997. In 1996 the businesses being acquired earned profits of £4.4 million. Net assets were £11.3 million at the end of 1996. Graseby Medical and Graseby Dynamics have integrated into Smiths' operating groups serving the healthcare and defence industries.

#### Finelist's £30m buy

EINELIST GROUP, the acquisitive distributor of automotive components, has bought Lucas Service UK from LucasVartiy, for £33 million. Lucas Service has 60 branches across the UK and its operating profits were £2.3 million on sales of £62 million in the year to the end of January 1997. Net assets were £19 million. The sale completes the disposal programme announced by LucasVartiy in late 1996, at the time of the merger of Lucas Industries and Vartiy Corporation.

### Troubled ASW reduces losses

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ASW, the troubled steel producer, clawed its way back into profit in the second half of last year and reduced annual losses to £5.8 million (£5.7 million loss).

ASW booked an exceptional profit of £1.1 million, against charges of £19.6 million incurred in the previous year.

Edward Townsend, finance director, refused to declare the figures a turning point for the beleaguered company. He said the market remained tough and that the longer-term effects of the fall-out in Asia were still unclear.

ASW has reduced its 3,000

workforce by more than 10 per cent and has increased productivity at its UK and French operations. It is also shifting emphasis from selling to the construction sector to aiming more business at engineering. The shift, aimed at reducing ASW's exposure to cyclical markets, has already taken engineering sales up to 37 per cent of total business from 24 per cent two years ago.

Output climbed last year by 6 per cent but margins remained low. Again there is no dividend.

Times, page 30

#### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.58	2.41	0.890	0.834
Canada \$	22.30	21.64	3.032	3.038
Denmark Kr	65.84	60.85	3.01	3.77
France Fr	2.476	2.290	Horway Ft	12.58
Germany DM	0.529	0.529	Portugal Esc	322.50
Italy Lit	18.14	11.26	S Africa Rd	8.97
Japan Yen	8.74	8.88	Spain Ptas	208.26
Netherlands Gld	10.82	9.84	Sweden Kr	14.01
Switzerland Sfr	3.19	2.95	Switzerland Fr	2.82
Turkey Lira	554	516	Turkey Lira	388.08
USA \$	15.72	12.52	USA \$	1.771
UK £	1.88	1.13	Rate for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.	
Israel Shk	1.26	1.17		
Italy Lit	6.94	6.89		
Japan Yen	215.6	222		
	230.82	213.08		

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This is Gordon Brown's big day. On Saturday, he was watching Tottenham play Liverpool. On Sunday, he was gracing a three-year-old's birthday party. The cameras were conveniently present on both occasions, so the nation was able to see him in the guise of normal bloke, a chap who shares the concerns of ordinary families, along with their Marmite sandwiches.

But today he gets back to being Chancellor of the Exchequer and, by the time he sits down at the end of his Budget speech, he will have spoiled the party for some sections of society.

In particular, it seems that many who had harboured ideas of eventually retiring to enjoy the fruits of a substantial tax-free savings fund may be disappointed. Those who did not have the luck of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, and lack a wealthy benefactress, may find the Chancellor less than generous in his plans for taxing their hard-earned savings.

Protestations over the unfairness of what could be interpreted as retrospective taxation appear to have persuaded him that prudent individuals who have taken full advantage of Peps and Tassas should not have their tax advantages wiped away. But the odds are that the rest of us will be restricted to a £50,000 limit on what we can accumulate tax free.

When Geoffrey Robinson first intimated that this was a tidy sum with which ordinary mortals

# Spoiling the middle-class party

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor



should be more than content, there was widespread amazement that a multimillionaire should have such audacity. But Audacious is the Paymaster General's other name.

He wants the individual savings account to encourage those who currently do not save to begin to make some provision for their future. But while £50,000 is a princely sum to those who have nothing in the bank, it will not fund many years in long-term care.

This Budget, however, is geared not towards easing the lot of the middle classes. The main themes of Mr Brown's package have been well flagged and augmented by copious leaks, not all of which can be accurate but which prove a useful testing ground for monitoring public reaction. The suggestion that there will be changes to national insurance charges has been so widespread that the real surprise for business will be if they are not forthcoming. Upping the threshold at which employers' contributions start, but lifting the cap at the other end of the pay scale, will penalise those companies that employ expensive workers, but they appear loath to make a fuss about it. It is all part of Mr Brown's crusade to eliminate the poverty trap and encourage

people off welfare and into work and, for the time being at least, most companies judge it wise to be entirely supportive of the aim.

A Budget for the long term is what we have been promised. Mr Brown yesterday did his best to commit future governments to his own prudent approach, with his promised fiscal stability code.

Future Chancellors with an election rather nearer than Mr Brown may regard that as a challenge rather than a straitjacket.

## Scardino defies the foggy tendency

Marjorie Scardino has disappointed the misogynist tendency in the City. After the fall of Ann Iverson at Laura Ashley, there had been some foggy, old and not so old, who had just been waiting for the moment when they could write off another woman's attempt to run a company. But Ms

Scardino is looking like a winner. She set herself demanding targets but shows every sign of delivering. While the top line figures may be unflattering, beneath them is a picture of a business settling into a sensible strategy, one which Pearson had so long lacked.

Having only arrived last January, Ms Scardino had no need to be squeamish of admitting the errors of many of the company's recent moves.

She could exit from the Mindscape disaster, and take the huge cost on the chin because she had no part in marching Pearson into such dangerous territory. She could come clean over the strange affair of Penguin's idiosyncratic approach to accounting because it happened before her beady eyes had a chance to focus upon Peter Mayer's US publishing operations.

That one rather lowly being in the New Jersey office could have had quite such a dramatic effect

on a major company remains something of a mystery. But hopes that Pearson would be able to recoup much of the cost of Ms Christina Galatro's actions now seems dashed. It is believed that a settlement with the company's auditors is imminent, but it is unlikely to reduce the £100 million cost that has been put on the débacle. To an outsider, that sounds like a settlement with which the auditors should be well pleased.

That episode, however, is in the past. Ms Scardino's view of the future is altogether more encouraging. She will not ditch good, profitable businesses, such as Lazards, because of a rigid adherence to any blueprint of the ideal business — anyhow, it is always useful to have a top class merchant bank on hand. She will, however, make acquisitions which will cement Pearson's presence in her chosen fields. Education and entertainment are twin pillars which complement each other,

even if Channel 5 and the Financial Times do appeal to rather different audiences, both of which Ms Scardino is determined to increase.

Those who have been watching her say that she has the glint of an imminent acquisition in her eye. The publishing house of Simon & Schuster could soon be joining the Pearson stable.

## A major setback for the minority

In the topsy-turvy world of Astec (BSR) it should come as no surprise that a director who a week ago was ejected because of his hostility to the company's controlling shareholder, should now be preparing to rejoin the board.

Neal G Stewart, one of Astec's founders, stood up at Astec's extraordinary meeting to launch a defence against Emerson's plan to take out minority shareholders at a discount to its widely perceived worth.

Now he has taken the Emerson shilling and minority shareholders appear to have lost one important argument in their legal battle against Emerson, which has used the clout of its 51

per cent shareholding to force through the changes it sought. The minority will certainly find it more difficult to convince the High Court that Emerson's actions prejudice the interests of other investors when the erstwhile chief technical officer, with two decades of loyal service, is on board.

Emerson has also taken the heat out of the dispute over dividends. Having threatened to block dividend payments altogether, it now proposes a final of 1.25p a share, less than the 1.41p promised by the now dismantled board, but still leaving the total up 7.8 per cent for the year, in line with the rise in earnings. Judges might approve such prudence.

Anticipating defeat, Astec shares slipped 4p to 117p yesterday, not far off Emerson's indicative offer, now withdrawn, of 111p. It is no fun being a minority.

## Deal that paid off

HOW clever of Roy Hitchens to negotiate that two-thirds of his remuneration package should be directed towards his pension rather than salary. He cannot have suspected in 1992 that he would be departing from Staveley in less than glorious circumstances, but it should certainly mean that he can contemplate his unimpressive reign at the engineering company from a comfortable retirement.

# Bunzl cautious over markets despite advance

BY ADAM JONES

BUNZL, the packaging and cigarette filters group, overcame the pain of the strong pound last year to record an 11 per cent increase in profits, lifting the shares 13 1/2 p to close at 267p.

However, Anthony Habgood, the Bunzl chairman, gave warning that the strength of sterling and the South-East Asian financial

turmoil may weaken prices in some of its markets.

Profits before tax rose from £113.5 million to £125.9 million, including a £2.2 million exceptional gain. The earnings increase would have been 16 per cent higher if the group did not have to translate overseas earnings into sterling, Mr Habgood said.

Sales from continuing oper-

ations rose 9 per cent to £1.7 billion, with about £100 million coming from acquisitions.

Bunzl's main business is distributing packaging to US supermarkets for use in delicatessans and in-store bakeries. This division was swelled by the acquisition in October of Grocery Supply Systems, a loss-making US group with annual sales of about \$270 million (£160 million).

The division's operating profit margin fell from 7.3 per cent to 7 per cent as a result, although sales were more than £1 billion for the first time.

Bunzl also augmented its cigarette filter manufacturing activities, which have the highest exposure to South-East Asia, with the purchase of American Filtrona Corporation, completed in September, and the divisional profit margin rose from 12.3 per cent to 13.6 per cent.

Plastic products manufacturing was the fastest growing division, with operating profit growing from £14 million to £17 million.

Mr Habgood said that the group would continue to expand through a mix of organic growth and acquisition. A final dividend of 4.5p will be paid on July 1, making a total of 6.8p (6.3p) for the year out of earnings per share up from 16.4p to 17.9p.

In the disposable packaging division, Bunzl's purchase of Kove Pac brought it into Germany for the first time.

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Hire and hire: David Price, right, and David Shipman aim to maintain profit growth

## Lavendon upbeat after 70% leap

LAVENDON GROUP, the equipment hire company, announced a 70 per cent leap in pre-tax profits for 1997 to £4.6 million and predicted that the level of profit growth would continue in the current year (Kathy Lipari writes). The

company's shares rose 28 1/2 p on the news.

Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 16.16p. Investors are to receive a final dividend of 2.6p for a total payout of 3.9p (3.4p).

David Price, chairman,

said: "Trading in the current year has begun well and we anticipate further significant progress being made in 1998." The company is seeking a group finance director to replace David Shipman, now group managing director.

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## Return to black at English China Clays

BY FRASER NELSON

ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS, the speciality chemicals and minerals producer, claimed yesterday that its £95 million restructuring programme had succeeded after it returned to the black with full-year profits of £88.5 million.

Dennis Rediker, Andrew Teare's successor as chief executive, said the group's reform plan — which led to a loss of £42.9 million last time — made cost savings of £36.7 million through improved margins.

Its shares, which have been recovering from their 220p low last month, added 1p to 263 1/2 p yesterday as City analysts upgraded profit forecasts to £96 million, from £94 million.

The profit recovery was achieved in spite of flat sales of £845 million. The company said that competition was still tough, making price increases almost impossible to sustain.

Mr Rediker said cash flow was at healthy levels, leaving the company well positioned to make a series of small acquisitions, possibly in surface treatments, polymers, paints or ceramics. "In 1998, we will still be aligning behind our core businesses and making more cost savings," he said.

The City was not expecting the £10 million charge relating to millennium bug problems, about £6 million of which will affect this year's profits. Analysts were unmoved by the group's caution of a slowdown in Far Eastern business as a result of Asia's currency crisis.

Overall, earnings were 21.7p a share (18.8p loss) for the year to December 31. The final dividend is to be increased for the first time in two years, and a final 7.5p per share makes a total 13p (12.5p).

## Hammerson to invest £140m in two capitals

BY CARL MORTISHED

HAMMERSON is investing up to £140 million in London and Paris after what Ron Spinney, chief executive, described as the best property market for five years.

The group's net asset value rose 13 per cent per share after an 8.4 per cent increase in the value of its property portfolio. Hammerson's pre-tax profit, before exceptional items, grew 3 per cent to £62.6 million and the dividend is up 6.3 per cent to 11.9p per share.

Hammerson is paying £93 million for the 56,000 sq m Italia 2 shopping centre in central Paris. The group has also agreed to acquire Britannia House, in Old Bailey, central London, from Barclays, for redevelopment.

Hammerson's total investment in the scheme, which will create a 90,000-square-foot office and be completed in 2000, will be £45 million.

Mr Spinney said: "I think that may be the time when the market starts to turn but we will endeavour to get a letting in the first nine months of next year."

He said that Italia 2 in Paris was a dominant centre that needed upgrading in a city with tight planning controls. About 12 per cent of Hammerson's portfolio is in France, made up mainly of shopping centres that have suffered from the downturn in the French economy.

Last year, the French properties gained 4.5 per cent in value, against 12 per cent in the UK. However, the French retail properties showed an 11 per cent improvement — against 13 per cent in Britain — while French offices suffered a 5 per cent decline.

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## Sun Life better than expected

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SUN LIFE & Provincial Holdings reported higher than expected annual pre-tax profits yesterday and said benefits from last year's merger would be 10 per cent greater than the £25 million originally forecast.

Shares, which have almost doubled in value over the past year, rose by 20p to 580p, close to January's record high of 585p.

The year-end figures were complicated by the merger and by a number of acquisitions and disposals. However, on a pro forma basis pre-tax profit for the operating companies before tax and non-recurring items rose 14 per cent to £284.5 million (1996: £248.8 million). UK life business contributed £176 million (£159

million); general insurance £85 million (£75 million) and asset management £23 million (£15 million).

Sun Life said market conditions were tough and it had been hard to maintain margins.

Mark Wood, group chief executive, said many new "high-profile" direct life and general insurers were losing money or experiencing very high start-up costs. "The flaw in their argument that they save customers' money by cutting out the middle-man is that these companies often have to pay more in advertising costs," he said.

Earnings per share (pro forma and after exceptional items) rose 52 per cent to 26.8p while the total dividend was up 15.6 per cent to 11.7p.

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MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

# Orange keeps its flavour with cautious investors

SHARE prices closed below their best of the day as investors decided to take a cautious line, just in case they do not like today's Budget.

After shaking off the ill-effects of a long list of blue chip companies going ex-dividend, equivalent to a seven-point fall, share prices moved ahead, backed by a strong currency and bond market. At its best the FTSE 100 index was 31.1 up before retreating to close just 2.8 up at 5,785.1.

The total of 912.4 million shares traded was bolstered by another heavy session of bid and breaking designed by investors to produce a year-end tax loss.

Orange was again the best-performing share among the top 100 for the second day running with the price touching 42.5p before running into profit-taking and reducing the lead to 37p at 40sp.

The shares moved sharply higher last week amid mounting speculation that British Aerospace is ready to unload its remaining 21 per cent stake, thereby paving the way for a full bid. Around seven million shares had changed hands by the close of business.

Rolls-Royce added 7p at 382p. It follows the Government's decision last week to raise the limit of foreign ownership in certain strategic defence companies from 25 per cent to 49.5 per cent. The ruling also applies to Bae, 5p better at £19.56.

HSBC was chased higher overnight in Hong Kong where stories were doing the rounds that the group is poised to bid for Morgan Stanley in the US securities houses. Traders in London marked the shares a further 27p higher at £18.55p.

Hambros jumped 12.5p to 23p on turnover of 389.55p. Brokers say speculative buying is gathering momentum.

Sun Life & Provincial, where Mark Wood is group chief executive and Lord Douro chairman, rose 20p at 582p, after receiving the thumbs-up from fund managers after better than expected annual results. These came in at the end of the range.

ScottishPower benefited from a "buy" recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, finishing 23.5p stronger at 508.2p. Almost two million shares were traded.

British Biotech bounced 3.5p to 72p in the wake of last week's shakeout in the shares



Mark Wood, left, Les Owen, chief executive at Axa Sun Life, and Lord Douro revealed results at the top end of forecasts

that accompanied the suspension of Andrew Millar, director of clinical research.

Britt Allcroft stood out with a jump of 49p at 241.5p after being recommended in a tip sheet. The independent producer of children's television programmes saw almost 300,000 shares change hands. Guardian Information and Technology made a spectacular start to trading on the big board after a placing at 255p. The price opened at 330p and raced up to a peak of 415p before closing at 411.5p, a premium of 180.5p.

The high street stores were beating a ragged retreat ahead of the retail sales figures, out later today, which are expected to show a further decrease in spending. Among those

worst hit were Argos, 8p down to 602p, Debenhams, 9.5p to 371p, Storehouse, 6.5p to 255p, DFS Furniture, 4p to 415p, Sports, 6.5p to 472.5p, JJB Sports, 17.5p to 741.5p, Next, 8.5p to 725.5p, and WH Smith, 8.5p to 532.5p.

Profit-taking left Hornby 12.5p cheaper at 245p. The shares raced ahead, briefly, on Friday at which point they were suspended pending an announcement.

Newcastle United slipped 4.5p to 85.5p after weekend tabloid reports. Manchester United also fell 7.5p to 51p after losing to its nearest challenger for the Premiership, Arsenal, at the weekend.

A profits warning left Staveley Industries nursing a loss of 9.5p at 122p. The group says profits for the current year are likely to come in at around £9.4 million (£21.3 million).

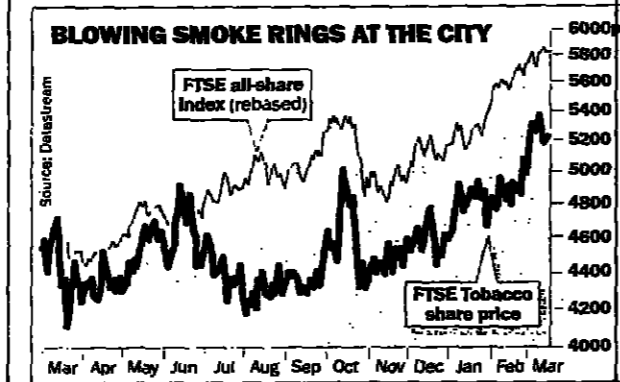
Astec (BSR) was another loser, finishing 4p down at 117p. Brian Christopher has resigned as chairman and will be replaced by James Berges, deputy chairman of the group's biggest shareholder, Emerson Electric.

Queensborough Holdings, the caravan park and leisure attractions group, rose 1p to 25p amid suggestions of possible acquisition activity. The group is thought to be looking at the four building hotels put up for sale by Rank Group, while its fledgling restaurants division is said to be eyeing the 50 high street Deep Pan Pizza units earmarked for possible disposal by City Centre Restaurants.

GILT-EDGED: Investors were in cautious mood ahead of the Budget and this was reflected in turnover levels. But the absence of any sellers provided the market with scope for further gains with longer-dated issues outperforming the shorter end ahead of tomorrow's auction.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £13.2 better at £108.32 as a total of 43,000 contracts were completed. The five-year future advanced 0.19 to £102.55 in thin trading with just 1,900 contracts completed.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average dipped 50 points in early trading as arbitrage curbs were set. But technology shares rose after Oracle revealed strong earnings and by midday the Dow had risen 69.25 to 8,671.77.



SHARES in the three big British tobacco producers were under a cloud after claims over the weekend that at least one of them knew years ago of the dangers associated with smoking.

An internal memo from Gallaher, dating back to 1970, has been found and could damage the company's position in the courts when it comes to resisting claims for compensation from cancer victims.

Gallaher was worst hit, falling 19p to 335p, with Imperial Tobacco also shedding 10.5p at 401.5p.

BAT Industries, meanwhile, eased 2p to 633p. The tobacco companies are being sued by 53 British lung cancer victims. Attempts to scupper the case proved abortive. A judge will be appointed on April 3 and the case should be heard next year.

Similar court cases in the US have been dragging on for years but will result in the companies shelling out billions of dollars.

Brokers in London are taking a sanguine view of events in this country. They say it could be years before a verdict is reached.

### MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	
Dow Jones	8671.77 (+69.25)
S&P Composite	1076.07 (+7.46)
Tokyo	
Nikkei average	10661.14 (+199.03)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	11181.54 (+124.51)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	1116.83 (+8.09)
Sydney	
ASX	2729.9 (-1.7)
Frankfurt	
DAX	4883.85 (-5.88)
Singapore	
Strait	1004.76 (+6.18)
Brussels	
General	1702.88 (+155.04)
Paris	
CAC-40	3998.26 (+58.03)
Zurich	
SEA Gen	1473.20 (-4.30)
LONDON	
FT 30	5785.1 (+2.8)
FTSE 100	5785.1 (+2.8)
FTSE 250	5201.8 (+10.23)
FTSE 350	2779.4 (+2.1)
FTSE Europe 100	2075.03 (+4.88)
FTSE All-Share	2710.81 (+2.29)
FTSE Financials	2652.7 (+2.03)
FTSE Fixed Interest	1404.5 (+0.08)
FTSE Govt Secs	104.49 (+0.37)
SEAD Volume	919.20
US\$	1.6655 (-0.0030)
German Mark	3.0258 (-0.0019)
Swiss Franc	1.6382 (-0.0001)
Bank of England official rate (4.00%)	
LSECU	1.5345
ESDR	197.5 Jan (2.3%) Jan 1997=100
RFPI	197.7 Jan (2.5%) Jan 1997=100

### RECENT ISSUES

Advent 2 VCT	100
BGR	270
Bass B	90
Eurotunnel 01/03 Wb	7
ITM	411.5
Morsom	194.5
Pennant Ind	160.5 +13
Quadrant Filtrac 128	...

### RIGHTS ISSUES

Peo n/p (3)	96
Wates City n/p (94)	96

### MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:	
Ryan Air	465p (+54p)
Norban	262.5p (+19p)
Orange	408p (+27p)
Character Op	285p (+15p)
Reed Excc	184p (+10p)
CRJ Gp	467p (+14p)
Goldsmith Gp	280p (+12p)
Victoria Gp	210p (+10p)
Shire Pharm	361p (+16p)
Hambros	283p (+12p)
Robert Walters	585.5p (+25p)
Waste Recyc	381.5p (+17p)
Hanson	385p (+13p)
AS Airways	505p (+22p)
Geosource Gp	325p (+14p)
Sun Life & P	580p (+26p)
Arney	580p (+15p)
FALLS:	
Accura Recruit	292.5p (-30p)
Carrs Milling	170p (-14p)
Biocorps Int	171.5p (-13p)
Gallaher	335p (-19p)
Hombly	245p (-12p)
Skillgroup	295p (-13p)
Wobley	505p (-16p)
GRE	435p (-16p)
Reed Int	575p (-21p)
DFS Furniture	415p (-14p)
Smithline	734p (-20p)
Helphix Gp	410p (-11p)
Parly	805p (-17p)
Micro Focus	670p (-12p)
Passion	250p (-12p)
Debenhams	483.5p (-10p)
Debenhams	371p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 33

## Shedding A. Teare works

EVER since Andrew Teare left the helm of English China Clays, its prospects seem to have become brighter and brighter.

With his departure, the company ditched dreams of mega-growth. Dennis Rediker is succeeding where his predecessor failed by realising that the business is mature - and needs to cut costs rather than chase top-line growth.

Yesterday's solid results demonstrate the first fruits of the restructuring programme which wiped out its 1996 profits. Fridge of place is operating margin - which has almost doubled to 12.1 per cent. Cashflow is gusting to 40p per share and the dividend is growing for the first time since 1995.

This strategy makes for steady profits growth this year, but will not work forever. Group sales have been marooned around £50 million - and oversupply in its core

chemicals markets means they are unlikely to grow at over 3.5 per cent this year or next.

Things could get worse. Brazil may soon start pumping out cheap kaoline, adding a further 10 per cent of capacity to one of the company's core areas. There are also fears that the Asian crisis will end in cheap paper being dumped in Western markets, making life miserable for English China's other clients.

But neither of these concerns deserve to see the company's shares languish at 12.3 times forecast earnings - a 35 per cent discount to its peers who suffer the same threats.

The City seems to be punishing English China for the mistakes of the Andrew Teare era, despite the margin growth now achieved under Mr Rediker. The company may never stun the City with double-digit earnings growth but its shares deserve a better rating.

### Bunzl

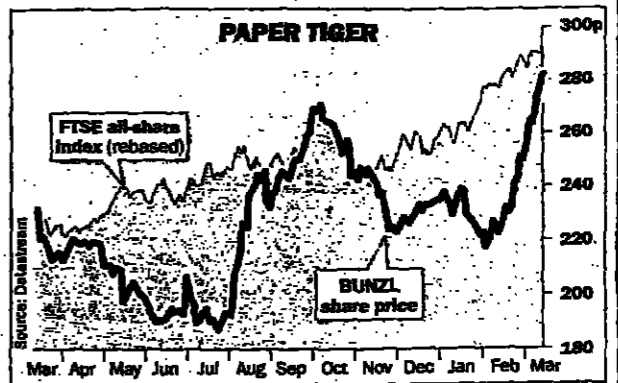
ANTHONY HABGOOD has focused the group on four things during his eight years as chairman, while the City seems to trust his skill as a dealmaker.

Bunzl distributes packaging and paper and makes cigarette filters, while a fast-growing plastics division manufactures protective caps and plugs. Supplying US supermarkets with disposable packaging is the biggest activity. Bunzl bought a loss-making supplier last year that should add £13 million or so to annual profits within three years, despite narrowing divisional margins slightly in 1997.

This should be a comfort to those who worry that sales at existing businesses grew only 3 per cent last year. There should also be expansion in Europe. Asian expo-

sure, which affects the cigarette filters business, is manageable. American Filtrona, its other big purchase last year, is still being integrated and it appears to be meshing well.

We tipped the shares at less than 230p last August. After a very strong start to 1998, they now stand at 287p, having risen 13.5p. Using the



### Hammerson

HAMMERSON is doing well but it ought to be, given the share rating. The trouble with the big property companies is that their shares are discounting a lot of growth. Hammerson's stock is valued at a 16 per cent premium to its December net asset value and after a year in which values and rents have been steaming ahead, one might expect a slowdown.

The trouble is that there are strong arguments to suggest that property could enjoy a short-term rerating. With long gilts at 6 per cent, there is little reason for property, which is benefiting from income growth, to languish at average yields of 7 per cent. Logically, falling yields at the long end of the bond market should generate a similar response from real estate investments, unless the market is facing an imminent glut of supply.

There is no evidence of that and in some markets -

Central London offices, shopping centres and retail parks - the reverse is true. Moreover, investor interest in property is growing. Pension funds are under pressure to find income-generating investments since the loss of cash flow from the removal of dividend tax credits in the last Budget. American pension funds are also scouring the UK for opportunities. You need confidence to push Hammerson's price much higher, but this is no time to sell.

fighting its corner against low-cost producers that benefit from the relative weakness of their currencies.

Like British Steel, ASW has been taking action to reduce its costs. Its workforce is smaller and its productivity is up. But ASW remains exposed to a highly cyclical business.

It is making efforts to offset that. In particular it is building up its sales to the engineering markets rather than construction, which is more vulnerable to cyclical downturns. Over the past two years ASW has raised its exposure to engineering to 37 per cent of its sales from 24 per cent. Over the next five years it aims to push that percentage into the mid-40s.

Until the turnaround in ASW's fortunes is clearer the shares are best avoided except as a punt on a possible bid for the business. Rumours of a takeover unveiled the shares several months ago, but no buyer has emerged.

### COMMODITIES

LIFFE	
CRUDE OIL (London \$/barrel FOB)	
Mar	106.10-106.15
May	107.10-107.15
Jul	108.10-108.15
Sep	109.10-109.15
Nov	110.10-110.15
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Jul	312.10-312.15

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

# Checklist for the Chancellor's speech

	CURRENT POSITION	WHAT THE EXPERTS PREDICT	BUSINESS	WHAT HAPPENS
Corporation tax	Standard rate: 31% (November Pre-Budget Report announced proposal to reduce this to 30% in April 1999). Smaller companies rate: 21%. Smaller companies limit: £300,000. Advance corporation tax will be abolished from 1999. Now stands at 1,398,500.	Gordon Brown announced changes in corporation tax in both the July budget and the November Pre-Budget Report, so it is unlikely there will be any major reforms. However, there may be changes to the proposals on payments on account to allow companies to pay on the basis of the previous year's tax bill. Anti-avoidance measures, mostly targeting multi-nationals, are likely as is an announcement of a general anti-avoidance regime (GAAR). Also in the pipeline is a tax break worth billions of pounds to help to tackle the millennium bug. The move would allow businesses to write off all millennium bug costs as an allowable expense before taxable profits were calculated. Measures to help IT companies are expected to include giving them the right to sell their tax losses to shareholders.		
Unemployment				

### VAT AND INDIRECT TAXATION

VAT	VAT standard rate: 17.5%. Fuel rate: lowered from 8% to 5% in September. Registration limit: £49,000 to register and £47,000 to deregister.	Nothing major expected although some say a rise in VAT is possible. Zero-rating should stay in place.		
Insurance premium tax	4% although 17.5% is charged where it is sold with holidays, cars or electrical goods.	Insurance premium tax could rise from 4% in line with other European countries. Some experts say the 4% tax may be merged with the 17.5% charged when insurance is sold with other products. The industry expects an increase of up to 10% in IPT.		

### EXCISE DUTIES

Excise duties	Alcopops 33cl bottle: 20.2p. Beer a pint: 24.7p. Lager a pint: 26p. 4 cans of lager 80.4p. Cider per litre: 24.5p. Wine a bottle: 108.5p. Sparkling wine a bottle: 155p. Whisky a bottle: 547.7p. Cigarettes, 25g packet: 214.7p. Tobacco 25g packet: 219.4p. Pipe tobacco 40.28p per lb. Diesel: 40.28p per litre. Petrol (unleaded): 40.28p per litre. Diesel: 40.28p per litre. Pools duty: 26.5% of bet. Betting duty: 6.75% of bet. National lottery: 12% of ticket. Vehicle excise duty: £155 (or £82.50 six-monthly).	It is a near certainty that tobacco duties will be increased above inflation, while alcohol may escape, although pressure to make alcopops less attractive could mean that duty on them is increased. The impact of lower duties in neighbouring EU countries must be considered but in the case of smoking, the health argument will carry more sway. Road fuel duties also look set to rise over inflation with the emphasis on encouraging the use of cleaner fuels (see "green taxes").		
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### BENEFITS AND THE FAMILY

Benefits and the family	<p>Lone parent income support: £49.15 a week. Married couple on income support: £77.15 a week for the couple. Family premium of £10.80 a week - Lone parent premium: £15.75 a week. Therefore, lone parents on income support currently get an extra £4.95 a week in premium. Families or lone parents earning less than £77 a week receive a basic benefit of £47.65 a week and additional benefits of between £12 and £34 a week for each dependent child. Eldest child: £11.05 a week. Eldest child of lone parent: £17.10 a week. Other children get £9 a week. Therefore, lone parents in work receive an additional £6.05 in child benefit. Disability living allowance and attendance allowance - up to £49.50 a week. Incapacity benefit: £47.10 to £82.45 a week. Industrial injuries benefit can be up to £101.10 for a fully disabled young person.</p>	<p>With the biggest shake-up of the tax and benefits system on the way, this will be an area of major change affecting families and possibly the disabled. Family credit is to be replaced by the working family tax credit (WFTC). Under the new system, the benefit will be given as tax relief and will be administered by the Inland Revenue rather than the Benefits Agency. Child benefit is another area under review. Higher-rate taxpayers could be taxed at 40%, but this may be delayed at least a year. Although a realisation of the cut in lone parent benefit is unlikely, there could be £500 million in payments of £5 a week for all families on income support. Additionally, there might be a new scheme which will pay up to 75 per cent of the childcare cost of the poorest families. Changes to disability benefits could also be on the way with proposals that could disqualify about two in three who receive disability living allowance (DLA). The Chancellor may cut or means-test DLA, attendance allowance and incapacity benefit. Industrial injuries benefit could be replaced by no-fault employer's insurance schemes.</p>		
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### NATIONAL INSURANCE

National insurance contributions	NI contributions: Class 1: employees earning more than £62 a week pay 2%, threshold will increase to £64 a week from April, and 10% on the remainder up to £455. Employers pay no charges on wages up to £62 a week and 3% on earnings above that amount. At £110, £155 and £210 a week charges of 5%, 7% and 10% take effect.	The point at which employers begin to pay national insurance contributions could be increased and an across-the-board interest rate introduced to replace the current steps at 5%, 7% and 10%. This would encourage the recruitment of lower-paid workers, but would mean rises in employment costs for companies with a disproportionate number of highly paid employees. Further moves to harmonise national insurance and income tax rules are possible but amalgamation is a long way off.		
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### HOUSING

	<p>In his first Budget, the Chancellor cut MIs from 15% to 10% on the first £30,000 of the loan with effect from April 1998. In his first Budget the chancellor increased stamp duty from 1% to 2% on purchases above £250,000 and doubled to 2% above £500,000.</p>	<p>Stamp duty for mortgage interest relief (MIRAS) will be reduced from next month from 5% to 3% from April 1999 and abolished in the next tax year. Possible to allow for houses to rent.</p>		
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### PENSIONS

Pensions	A tax-free lump sum is available from either a company pension scheme or a personal pension.	There is a proposal to abolish the tax relief for private pension contributions could be abolished. There is some speculation that an immediate stop could be put to new Peps and Tessa sales. A Royal Commission inquiry into long-term care provision is currently under way.		
Personal pensions	Tax relief (employed) of up to 15% of salary. Tax relief (personal pensions) on 17.5% to 40% of earnings, depending on age. If you joined your pension scheme after March 1988, a cap of £84,000 applies to the earnings which can be counted for pensions purposes.			
Long-term care	The first £10,000 of capital and assets is disregarded for the purposes of means testing. Between £10,000 and £16,000 you will be asked to make a contribution on a sliding scale. If you hold assets of more than £16,000 you will be expected to fund your own long term care.			

### SAVINGS

Savings tax	Tax is at 20% except for higher-rate tax payers.	From April 6 1999 individual savings accounts (ISAs) will replace Tesas and Peps. Initial proposals stated that up to £5,000 could be invested each year with a maximum of £20,000. However, complaints from the savings industry and pressure from Downing Street mean it is likely that the Chancellor will make changes to the proposals.		
Tesas (tax-exempt savings accounts)	Tesas (£9,000 maximum investment) can be opened until April 1999. They will be allowed to run their five-year term.			
Peps (Personal equity plans)	Until April 5 1999 £6,000 can be invested in a general Pep with a further £3,000 in a single-company Pep each year.			
Stamp duty	Stamp duty of 0.5% is charged on sales of stocks and shares.			
Enterprise investment schemes and venture capital trusts	These schemes offer generous tax reliefs to investors but carry a high degree of risk.			

### CAPITAL TAXES

Capital gains tax	Annual exemption £8,500. Tax paid at income tax rates.	Experts forecast major reforms, with a radical simplification of an over-complex easily avoided tax. Changes could penalise short-term gains and favour long-term investors who would pay lower rate of tax. Indexation of gains could be abolished and the annual capital exemption could be reduced, perhaps halved. Bond-and-breakfast share deals could be abolished.		
Inheritance tax	Threshold £215,000. Exemptions for lifetime gifts, where donor survives seven years (potentially exempt transfers or PETs).	PET is also seen as too easily avoided. Various exemptions are at risk, including PETs and deeds of variation (used to cut tax on wills after death). The current £215,000 threshold appears safe but there could be higher rates of tax on larger estates (currently CGT is charged at a flat rate of 40 per cent).		

### INCOME TAX

Personal allowances	Personal allowances: £4,045 (under 65); £5,220 (65-74); £5,400 (75 plus). These allowances are the amounts you can earn before paying tax. £1,630 (under 65); £3,185 (65-74); £3,225 (75 plus). Relief on married couples allowances are given only at 15%. Lower rate 20%; basic rate 23%; higher rate 40%. Lower rates (20%): £0-£4,100; basic rate (23%): £4,101-£26,100; higher rate (40%): excess over £26,100. Non-residents are exempt from: a) income tax on foreign income and b) CGT even on UK assets. Someone who is resident but non-domiciled is taxable only on overseas income and gains actually remitted here. Non-domiciled are exempt from inheritance tax on overseas assets.	<p>A 10% lower rate of tax for 1999 on the first £1,000 or £2,000 of income, one of the centrepieces of Labour's election campaign, could be shelved as the new rate could conflict with plans to implement the new tax credit for working families. It has also been mooted that the personal allowance could be changed into a flat tax credit for all taxpayers.</p> <p>The Government has already blocked the loophole that allowed holders of offshore trusts to avoid capital gains tax when repatriating their assets. But further tightening of the rules on offshore tax havens is likely. Experts also predict that residence rules will be made tougher. Leaving the country for a single year to realise large capital gains could go and measures to make shareholding, public transport and cycling more attractive are likely to include giving councils the power to levy tolls on their busiest roads in an attempt to relieve congested city centres. Increase in tax penalties for cars above two litres. There may be further moves to include taxes on carbon and sulphur dioxide emissions and tax on water abstraction or pollution. Landfill tax could be extended to cover mineral works.</p>		
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### GREEN TAXES

Petrol duty	Leaded 45.1p per litre, unleaded 40.28p per litre, diesel 40.28p per litre.			
Company car parks	No tax on company car parks.			
Landfill tax	Under landfill tax a £7 levy is charged on every ton of domestic waste, £2 on rubble or soils and higher charges for hazardous materials.			

### CULTURE

Museums	V&A, Imperial War, National Maritime and Science Museums all impose admission charges.	Museum charges could be abolished.		
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# Yorkshire hands £68m back to its mutually faithful

By Susan Emmett

THE Yorkshire Building Society, the fourth largest in the sector, reaffirmed its commitment to mutuality by returning £68 million to its one million members through lower mortgage rates and higher savings rates, it was announced yesterday.

The building society charges a standard variable mortgage rate of 8.25 per cent.

compared with the Halifax's 8.7 per cent, and pays a rate of 6.8 per cent on deposits of more than £10,000 on its instant access account.

Yorkshire's pre-tax profits rose 28 per cent to £55.3 million, net lending jumped 45.7 per cent to £909 million and the number of saving members increased more than 20 per cent.

Derek Roberts, chairman of Yorkshire, said the results reflected the excellent value members received. Good results were the best insurance against any potential hostile bids, he added.

David Anderson, chief executive, dismissed suggestions that Yorkshire was under threat of conversion through a bid from Royal Bank of Scotland. RBS's hopes of taking over Birmingham Midshires have slimmed after a higher bid of £780 million from Halifax. Mr Anderson said Yorkshire had not been approached since RBS, the Bank of Scotland and Abbey National approached it three years ago.

As a further indication of confidence in its mutual status, Yorkshire is to reduce its minimum opening balance — currently £2,000 for savings accounts at branches and £3,000 for postal accounts — by July.

# Ciba in £28m provision

By Carl Mortished

ASIAN economic turmoil has forced Ciba Specialty Chemicals to write down the value of its Asian investments by SF70 million (£28 million). The Swiss group, which recently acquired Allied Colloids in a £1.4 billion takeover, is also increasing bad debt provisions in the Far East by SF10 million.

The writedown emerged as

Ciba reported a profits surge in its maiden financial results, helped by the weakness of the Swiss franc. The group demerged from Ciba-Geigy, its parent, last year as the latter combined with Sandoz to form Novartis. Ciba's net income before restructuring charges in 1997 rose 84 per cent to SF1571 million.



Fresh plans: Neville Abraham, flanked by Laurence Isaacson, deputy chairman, left, and Ian Holder, finance director

# Chez Gérard expansion on menu

By Dominic Walsh

GROUPE CHEZ GERARD, the London restaurateur, is to open its seventh eponymous *steak et frites* outlet in Farringdon in July. The £650,000 project is part of a £2.6 million investment programme.

The biggest investment, of around £1.3 million, will go

into moving a Café Fish outlet to new premises in the capital's theatreland. The move, which will double the size of the restaurant, follows the landlord's decision to redevelop the existing site. A further £650,000 will be spent converting the Grill St Quentin into a Chez Gérard.

The group unveiled the plans as it reported a 34 per

cent jump in pre-tax profits to £176 million in the half year to December 28, from turnover 52 per cent ahead at £13.38 million. Earnings per share were up 41 per cent to 7.2p and an interim dividend of 1.15p (1.0p) will be paid on May 26.

Sales growth excluding start-ups and acquisitions was 16 per cent higher as a result of refurbishments, although the

cost of the projects, allied to acquisitions, reduced overall operating margins by 0.5 per cent.

Neville Abraham, chairman and chief executive, said that although London was becoming "an increasingly crowded and fiercely competitive market" the group had no plans to expand outside the capital for at least 18 months.

# Fairey's profit flies to £52m

By Adam Jones

FAIREY said farewell to the British aircraft industry with a 19 per cent increase in profits last year.

In January, the group said it was selling the Fairey Hydraulics arm, the last of its aerospace activities, to concentrate on process engineering, including electronic controls and filtration systems.

In its plane-making heyday, Fairey built the Swordfish, the aircraft that helped to sink the Bismarck in the Second World War.

Group pre-tax profits, including the last full-year contribution from Fairey Hydraulics, rose from £44 million to £52.2 million after acquisitions in its electronics division, and despite the effect of the strong pound, which cost £3.5 million.

Turnover rose from £246.6 million to £320.7 million.

A dividend of 6.95p makes a total of 10p (9p) for the year.

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# Transported

RICHARD HANNAH, transport analyst, now realises he never had much of a chance of a job at SBC Warburg when it merged with his former employer, UBS. He fell at the first hurdle: the difficult Eurotunnel "buy" test. Warburg floated Eurotunnel, and Hannah spent the next ten years flicking ink pellets at the business. He was never going to be popular.

So he and colleague Matthew O'Keefe are installed at the merged Bankers Trust and NatWest Markets, where the pair must fill the shoes of a former NatWest transport analyst, Dan White, affectionately known to his friends as the bulk carrier. Hannah had been worrying about his future since the merger was announced. Fortunately UBS made the right choice, and handed over the requisite severance package. "I had been at UBS for 19 years. I was terrified they were going to keep me on."

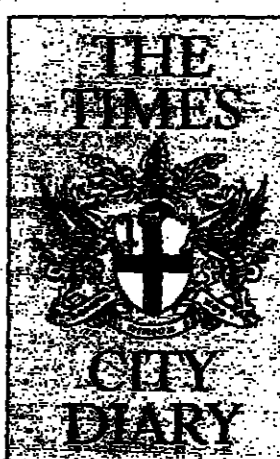
CROSSED fish-knives in restaurant-land. BGR, which runs the trendy Bank restaurant in Aldwych, Central London, plans a chain of fish eateries called Fish. Simple and accurate, except that Groupe Chez Gérard reckons this is a bit too close to its own Café Fish concept. Neville Abraham, chairman of Chez Gérard, has dashed off a "polite but firm" letter to BGR. Tony Allan, his counterpart there, has no idea what the fuss is about. "I cannot for the life of me see why they are so concerned over one four-letter word."

# Fast track

KPMG is so enamoured with an experiment tried out at the last Budget that it is being repeated this year. For the past five or six years the accountant has delivered its briefing to the desks of 3,000 clients by the next morning. Last time KPMG tried out a courier service with a difference, a team of cyclists who apparently did the job quicker than any van or motorbike could. These strange souls, keen speed racers all, both earn a living and keep in training by hiring themselves out as couriers. "They can get around London in minutes," says an awed KPMG employee.

# Just the ticket

THERE is great sorrow at the City Road head office of Inmarsat, the satellite group. An unforeseen consequence of the group's privatisation has been that employees will lose an important perk. Inmarsat was set up 17 years ago to provide worldwide satellite guidance for mariners as a United



Nations agency. With "semi-diplomatic" status. This is not quite as good as working for a foreign embassy, but there are some advantages, notably that staff do not pay UK tax. Only one person at Inmarsat has those useful CD car number plates that let you off parking tickets, though, the director-general, Warren Grace. Now he will have to sort out his own parking like the rest of us.

# 'Profiteers'

A NEW star has entered the financial firmament. Look to your laurels, George Soros, Warren Buffett, you're toast. Money and How to Make More of it will help in the coming transformation of our finances as we are forced to take



Chase: finance guide

control of our lives. The authors' names, as they appear on the cover are Lorraine Chase and Adam Shaw. He is a BBC TV financial presenter and, bafflingly, a "Cee-fax agony uncle". Chase once appeared in an advertisement, her role limited to the words, now let me get this right: "Naw, Luton airport." I am assured the book was her idea and she wrote almost half of it, hence top billing. "She's not pretending to know an awful lot about p/e ratios," her agent admits.

TROCADERO, owner of a tatty tourist trap and the works of Enid Blyton, has decided to rename itself Chori-on. (It means a protective membrane around a growing body.) Not as bad as Diageo, but there is one problem at least. No one knows how to pronounce it. The version I was offered was Core-lan. As in the country. Not Corry-an. Except that, as a Greek word, should it not rhyme with Orion, the mythological hunter? Which would make it Core-Eye-on. And most shareholders will probably call it Chorry-an. The good news is that it did not cost anything. "It was a bit of a DIY job," said Patrick Donovan, marketing director.



"Everyone's getting rid of Formica, so why can't we?"

MARTIN WALLER



هكمان النحل

# Equities lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1996 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	1995 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
1.00	0.95	Alcoholic Beverages	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Alcoholic Beverages	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Alcoholic Beverages	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Banks	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Banks	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Banks	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Diversified Industrials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Diversified Industrials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Diversified Industrials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Food Manufacturers	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Food Manufacturers	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Food Manufacturers	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Engineering Vehicles	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering Vehicles	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering Vehicles	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Investment Trusts	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Investment Trusts	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Investment Trusts	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Media	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Media	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Media	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Pharmaceuticals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Pharmaceuticals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Pharmaceuticals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Printing & Paper	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Printing & Paper	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Printing & Paper	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Healthcare	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Healthcare	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Healthcare	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Household Gds & Text	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Household Gds & Text	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Household Gds & Text	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Leisure & Hotels	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Leisure & Hotels	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Leisure & Hotels	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Oil & Gas	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Oil & Gas	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Oil & Gas	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	British Funds	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	British Funds	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	British Funds	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Insurance	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Insurance	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Insurance	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Construction	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Construction	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Construction	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Engineering	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Chemicals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Chemicals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Chemicals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Electronics & Elect	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electronics & Elect	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electronics & Elect	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Building Materials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Building Materials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Building Materials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Electricity	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electricity	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electricity	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Other Financial	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Other Financial	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Other Financial	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Support Services	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Support Services	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Support Services	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Property	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Property	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Property	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Telecommunications	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Telecommunications	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Telecommunications	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Transport	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Transport	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Transport	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Water	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Water	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Water	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Retailers, Food	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Retailers, Food	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Retailers, Food	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Alternative Inv Market	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Alternative Inv Market	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Alternative Inv Market	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Distributors	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Distributors	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Distributors	1.00	-0.05	-5.0

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1.00	0.95	Banks	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Banks	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Banks	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Diversified Industrials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Diversified Industrials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Diversified Industrials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Food Manufacturers	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Food Manufacturers	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Food Manufacturers	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Engineering Vehicles	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering Vehicles	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering Vehicles	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Investment Trusts	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Investment Trusts	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Investment Trusts	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Media	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Media	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Media	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Pharmaceuticals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Pharmaceuticals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Pharmaceuticals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Printing & Paper	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Printing & Paper	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Printing & Paper	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Healthcare	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Healthcare	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Healthcare	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Household Gds & Text	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Household Gds & Text	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Household Gds & Text	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Leisure & Hotels	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Leisure & Hotels	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Leisure & Hotels	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Oil & Gas	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Oil & Gas	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Oil & Gas	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	British Funds	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	British Funds	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	British Funds	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Insurance	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Insurance	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Insurance	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Construction	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Construction	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Construction	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Engineering	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Engineering	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Chemicals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Chemicals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Chemicals	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Electronics & Elect	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electronics & Elect	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electronics & Elect	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Building Materials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Building Materials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Building Materials	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Electricity	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electricity	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Electricity	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Other Financial	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Other Financial	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Other Financial	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Support Services	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Support Services	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Support Services	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Property	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Property	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Property	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Telecommunications	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Telecommunications	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Telecommunications	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Transport	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Transport	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Transport	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Water	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Water	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Water	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Retailers, Food	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Retailers, Food	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Retailers, Food	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Alternative Inv Market	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Alternative Inv Market	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Alternative Inv Market	1.00	-0.05	-5.0
1.00	0.95	Distributors	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Distributors	1.00	-0.05	-5.0	1.00	0.95	Distributors	1.00	-0.05	-5.0

IS YOUR COMPANY ON THE BALL?

DRINKABALL DRIVABALL  
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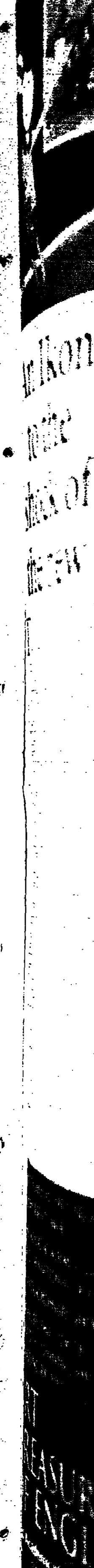
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On Saturday an old Birmingham school reopens as an inviting new art gallery. Richard Cork takes a look at the interior and the first installations



Underground art: Georgina Starr's sinister *Tuberama*

# An Ikon to the shock of the new

The crimson words in Nancy Spero's installation dance across the whiteness of the Ikon Gallery's lofty new space. Let the priests tremble," they cry. She unleashes a cavalcade of supercharged women in his exhilarating upper room. They leap, hurtle, gyrate and fly across the luminous walls, evelling in lithe, emancipated energy. And their festive mood himes with the excitement of discovering that Birmingham, long last, has the world-class contemporary art show-use it so desperately needed.

When this hugely inviting building opens on Saturday, visitors will find it equipped with all the facilities a modern gallery requires. Originally designed as Oozells's Street school in 1877, it was saved from demolition only a few years ago.

A vigorous exercise in Victorian Gothic, richly embellished with ornamental tiles and stone carvings of acorns and bullrushes, the redoubtable brick edifice occupies a prime location just across the canal from the city's concert hall. So the Ikon's feisty director, Elizabeth A. Macgregor, was delighted when the site's developers offered her the school at a peppercorn rent. The lease on her existing premises in John Bright Street was about to expire. Eager to make the Ikon larger and more prominent, she realised that the Oozells's building provided an ideal opportunity.

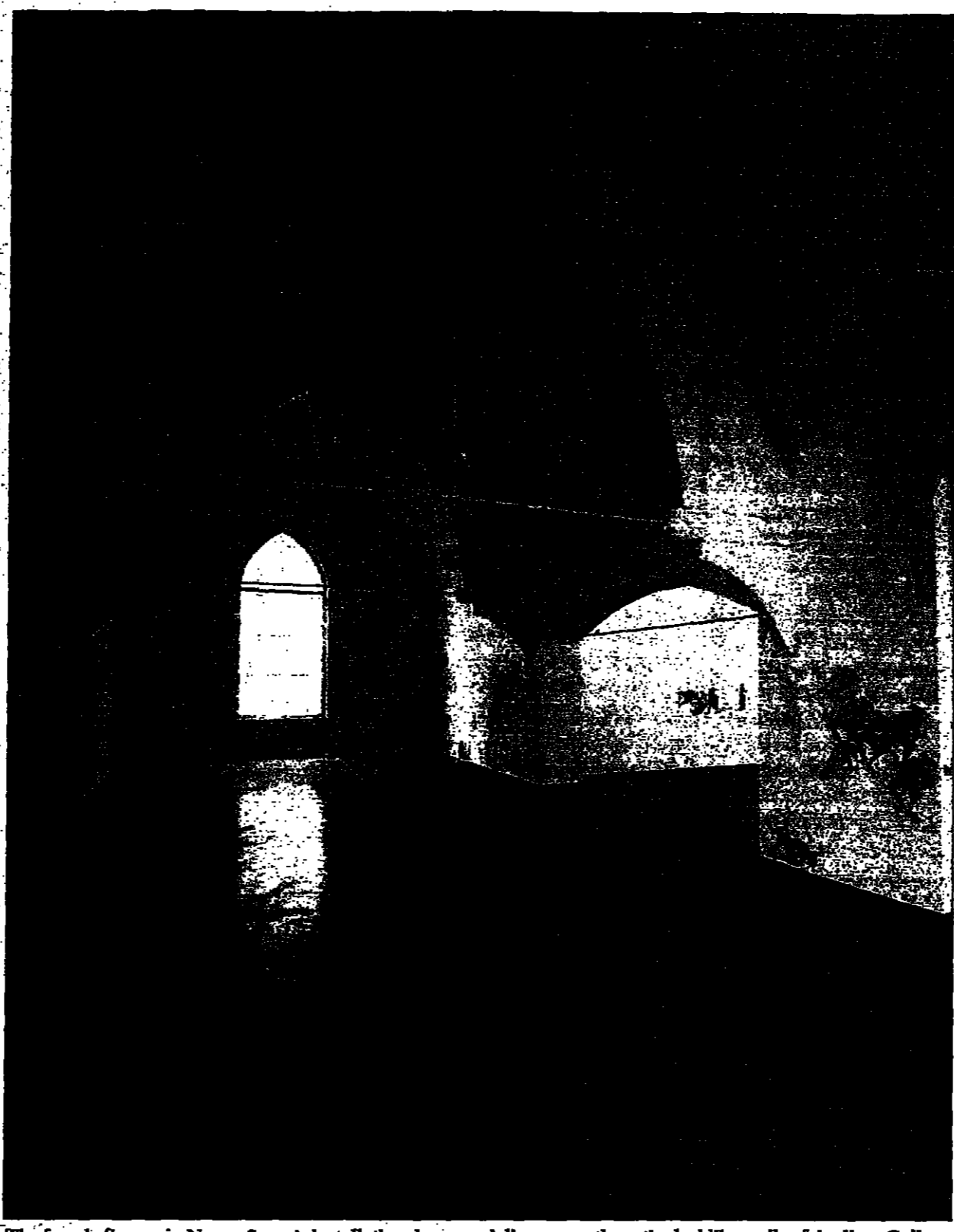
But its conversion would be expensive. Quite apart from the restoration of an elaborate Victorian tower, the school's

interior needed wholesale conversion. Eventually, with the aid of an Arts Council lottery grant of £3.7 million and £991,000 from the European Regional Development Fund, the work was undertaken by Levitt Bernstein Associates. They approached the task with the right combination of boldness and respect for the past.

The architects have not, however, been afraid to make necessary additions in an unobtrusively modern style. No urge to indulge in Gothic pastiche mars the public staircase and glazed lift built on to the side of the old school. They are light, minimalist structures, unashamedly announcing the new function of the building. And they lead up from the ground floor, where a cafe and shop now provide a welcome to the galleries.

The dramatic contrast between the lean, metallic stairs and the neighbouring facade of the original premises is reminiscent of Norman Foster's Sackler Wing at the Royal Academy. He made no attempt to hide the difference between his high-tech addition and the existing architecture. Nor does Axel Burrough, the Levitt Bernstein partner mainly responsible for the Ikon scheme. He allows us, as we walk up the stairs, to savour the Ruskinian relief sculpture still carefully preserved on the wall beside us.

The Ikon's former home, a converted warehouse near the station, boasted no such architectural magnificence. Its unheated galleries, glacial in winter, were adequate and yet far from special. But the new



The female figures in Nancy Spero's installation dance and dive across the cathedral-like walls of the Ikon Gallery

Ikon — the only original building to survive in the ambitious Brindleyplace development — rejoices in the robust dignity of an edifice enhanced by tall windows, spectacular vaulting and sudden, unexpected flourishes of stone-carving and stained glass.

It also has generous space available for educational activities which will play a vital role in helping the gallery to expand its audience, and become a more familiar part of Birmingham's cultural life. Already, aided by an award through the Arts For Everyone scheme, Macgregor has been forging valuable links with local communities through travelling exhibitions in the region. And the new Ikon now looks like a place people will enjoy visiting for its own sake.

The new cafe looks enticing enough to compete with the eye-shaped Bar Rouge Cafe nearby, designed with theatrical brio by Piers Gough as the centrepiece of a new pedestrianised square in Brindleyplace. But when the entire development is complete, there should be plenty of customers for both venues.

So contemporary exhibitions could turn into a major city attraction. Just as Simon Rattle stimulated audiences at the concert hall into experienc-

ing 20th-century music at its most challenging, Macgregor now has the facilities to perform a similar feat for painting, sculpture and all the alternative media artists exploring. She is certainly committed to ensuring that a healthy proportion of Birmingham's population becomes aware of the new Ikon's existence.

The two opening shows proclaim her involvement with contemporary art at its liveliest. Rather than ignoring senior practitioners in favour of the young, she has given the upper rooms to the 72-year-old Nancy Spero. But the work on display in these high, almost ecclesiastical chambers explains why Spero is widely admired by artists who emerged during the 1990s. Taking nimble advantage of the panoramic surfaces at her disposal, she uses them as an arena where her female figures can become as uninhibited as they wish. They dance, dive and somersault across the walls. Undaunted by a tall end window, they float over its pointed arch.

But their delight is laced with defiance as well. Having "let the priests tremble", the militant red words shoot across the wall and yell: "too bad for them if they fall apart, on discovering that women aren't men". Treating the gallery as a cross between a gymnasium and a swimming-pool, these gravity-defying bodies prove that Spero knows how to enliven a space with economy, wit and aplomb.

Her eclectic range of images roams through the entire history of art, from cave paintings and Celtic carvings to news photographs of Hollywood stars today. Her female types are equally diverse, encompassing sex-hungry libertines as well as ethereal winged spirits.

Georgina Starr, the young British artist whose specially commissioned work is also displayed at the Ikon, achieves a similar balancing-act. One of the most unpredictable and multitalented members of the new generation, she brings together music, animation, model-making and painted wooden figures in a hallucinatory work called *Tuberama*.

Cessitating passengers and guards beckon us into her installation, where Old Street Station is transformed into a bizarre funfair ride. Tube carriages, with commuters visible inside, clamor round the floor on a circular track. Violently coloured cubicles invite us to sit inside, and listen on headphones to CD tracks like *Horror Street*, *Sweaty Arm-pits*, *Tummy Touch* and *Pervert*. Initially playful, the music soon assumes a nightmarish quality. And the breezily drawn cartoon film, screened on a large wall as well as on monitors suspended

from the ceiling, takes us on an increasingly feverish, macabre journey.

Georgina, the central character, finds herself trapped on a train with an array of smelly, lascivious and sinister travellers. At once light-hearted and paranoid, *Tuberama* has the same instantaneous impact as Spero's crazily choreographed

figures. But beneath their zealous surface, which should prove irresistible to many entering the Ikon for the first time, darker layers of meaning can be uncovered.

● Nancy Spero and Georgina Starr at the Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham (0121-248 0708) from Saturday until May 24

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

Michael Cullimore is one of those homegrown English mystics at one with nature, seeing occult correspondences between landscape and people. Now in his early sixties, he is like but not like the Sutherland generation who were inspired by the rediscovery of Samuel Palmer to develop a new kind of Romanticism. Like, in his attitudes to nature and to life, his passion for the light that never was on land or sea. Unlike, in that his actual works lack completely the crabbed intricacy of the belated Palmerians if they are suggestive of anything happening in English art between the wars, it is rather of the sophisticated and cosmopolitan Paul Nash.

The pictures at Michael Parkin are mostly watercolours and monotypes on paper, though there is a sprinkling of oils. The subject, consciously or unconsciously, is that borderland where landscape and the human figure meet: hills look like breasts or buttocks, nudes look like undulating wolds. Everything ends up being colonised for humanity. On the other hand, his vision is as much about dissolution, the absorption of the human into nature.

Michael Parkin Gallery, 11 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 8144). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until April 3.

covered (a bit before the rest of Art Deco Miami). For the new show at Francis Kyle he returns to the middle Americas, this time to Cuba. The oils break everything down into blocks of pure colour, so that the gallery positively vibrates.

Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, W1 (0171-499 6870). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm, until April 16.

■ DECADENCE is the only word for David Hossie in his latest manifestation at the Jill George Gallery. In his last show he already seemed to have one eye at least on the Neue Sachlichkeit vision of Weimar Germany, with its clubs, its sex, its casual violence. This time the almost whimsical fantasy of his early work is completely expunged. Instead, we get gloomy hostesses who gaze past us as though they have just abandoned their needles in the back room, depressive-looking young men in black sweaters, men alone with a beer or at a urinal, couples one might call loving in bars or cinemas, were the psychological divide between them not so manifestly unbridgeable. It is not cheerful, but it powerfully grabs the imagination.

Jill George Gallery, 38 Lexington Street, W1 (0171-437 7343). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-5pm, until April 3.

■ ALMOST as instinctive in his approaches as Cullimore is Paul Webb, though his production is unstoppably even: practically every year a new exhibition with a new theme. But at least one knows all the time exactly what turns him on as a painter, and consequently why he goes where he goes. He is essentially a painter of clear skies and tropical climes, where shadows are as deeply purple as the Impressionists said they were, and colours are rich, vivid and clearly differentiated. Consequently the work is curiously un-English, entirely uninterested in half-lights and delicate gradations. It is not to everybody's taste, but there is no denying the flair and conviction. One of Webb's earlier shows memorably dis-

■ John Monks does not transport us to a noticeably cheerier world. All his paintings of the past two years at Beaux Arts are of interiors. Sometimes there is a window which permits us to look out into something green and maybe sunny, but typically they are of derelict-looking rooms, paint peeling (or perhaps stripped) from the walls, the furniture sketchy and wrecked, the pages of books curling and discoloured with neglect. I defy you to forget these paintings, even if you sometimes wish you could.

Beaux Arts, 22 Cork Street, W1 (0171-437 5799). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm, until April 3.

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LEFT: As well as chilling, this black satire is unashamedly funny, written by a genuine comic writer ABOVE: The beautiful, independent historian plans a history of the world, a story that is bound up with the stories of others — and they too must speak

CHANGING TIMES

# A case of mistaken entity.

W hat can account for the survival of this fearful play, when it could have been allowed to crumble to dust along with the bones of its celebrator, Pedro Calderón de la Barca? As the title plainly gives warning, the author's concern is to show a man so deeply vexed by a slur upon his honour that he surgically removes the person he suspects of having committed the slur, that person being — of course — his wife.

Don Enrique, brother to the king, falls from his horse and chances to be carried to the house where lives the woman he loves, Doña Mencía, who, fearing he had forgotten her, has just married Don Gutierre. This nobleman was formerly pledged to marry Doña Leonor but renounced her after seeing Don Arias leave by her balcony, not realising that he (Arias) had been calling upon someone else in the same house who has had the good sense to die before being mummified in a Calderón play.



Nigel Parkin (Gutierre) and Victoria Newlyn (Mencía) in *Other Ranks*' unwise revival

Enrique resumes his courtship of Mencía, who fears for her honour and her reputation. Leonor's reputation and (it goes without saying) her honour are already fearfully compromised, so she appeals to the king.

His Majesty has been finding so little in the realm to amuse him that he offers Gutierre's jester a bag of gold if he can make him smile within a month. Should he fail he will have all his teeth pulled out.

Gutierre's walled garden is evidently so easy to scale that

he might as well replace it with slices of Gruyère cheese. Enrique creeps there by night, Gutierre (fearing for his honour) creeps there pretending to be Enrique, and eventually arranges for Mencía to be led to death, dragging the bed upon which she lies on to the streets of Seville.

Happening to pass by, the king recognises his guilt and declares that Gutierre's sentence shall be to marry Leonor. Extending his bloody hand, "cleansed by guilty blood", Gutierre consents and the play terminates.

Perhaps the play served some contemporary function when it was written... but what is served by reviving it as *Other Ranks*? Theatre Co now does, setting it on an effective red set (by Geoff Rose) but using an unexciting translation by Gwynne Edwards? I cannot speak for the quality of the original Spanish but do not think it likely to be high, weighed down as the English version of *The Surgeon of Honour* is by empty rhetoric and banal imagery, where day does not merely end but is invited by the ocean god to share his frozen bed in the sea.

Just conceivably, the author's pen is dipped deep in irony and he hoped that his mid-17th century Spanish audience would recognise the awful consequences to which the craze for reputation must lead. But neither Calderón nor Edwards nor this earnest production by Judith Roberts makes this possible intention evident.

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

with anything he has written in the past. *I Will Be Standing There*, a loveborn ballad of lost love and newfound hope from his forthcoming album, *Seven Days in May*, already sounds of classic vintage.

On stage Taylor has a warm, personable demeanour, often breaking off to tell the long and winding history of a particular song, or else throwing in another piece of the fascinating jigsaw puzzle that is his own life story.

A New Yorker, Taylor's real name is James Wesley Voight, and he is the brother of the actor Jon Voight. A practised and expert gambler, he even took a complete break from the music business for many years, making a living from the casino tables and racetracks. He confesses that he would probably still be there now but for the protracted illness of his mother, whose death eventually inspired him to pick up a guitar and start writing songs again.

The result, *The Living Room Tapes*, is a stunning record of love, magic and loss. *Something About Losing It All* is as world weary as it gets while *Some Thing All Over Blues*, a sly anti-love song, found Taylor's musical partner for the night, Bruce Kaplan, in fine form on slide guitar.

Egged on by the audience, Taylor played on past the curfew, finishing with Johnny Cash's *Big River*, long after the lights went up. But as far as this audience was concerned, he could have carried on playing all night, and well into the morning.

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**LONDON**

**BILL T. JONES:** The chromatic American choreographer, renowned for his fluid and precise movements, brings his dance company to London for a week-long run of his most recent large-scale work, *We Set Our Early Sails*, inspired by the music of Stravinsky. John Coyle and Peter Vajda. Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street, off Tottenham Court Road, Tel: 011-334 8800. Wed-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

**COSI FAN TUTTI:** Colin Davis returns to conduct Jonathan Miller's satirically challenged production for the Royal Opera of Mozart's tale of moonstruck joy and deceit. The first of two casts features Barbara Fritsch, Simon Keenlyside and Thomas Allen. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 0 7TF. Tel: 011-379 5399. Tonight, 7.30pm.

**19TH CENTURY MUSIC:** Mary Bealins conducts the versatile Lyran Ensemble in the first in a series of three concerts featuring some of the most vibrant music to have been written this century. On the programme are works by Shostakovich, Stravinsky and a world premiere, a work by Peter Paul Nash. Purcell Room, South Bank, SE 1 0111-360 4242. Tonight, 7.30pm.

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM:** Actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company divide the words for this unique performance with the City of London Sinfonia to create some of the Bard's plays alongside music they have inspired. This evening Richard Hickox conducts the Sinfonia and the women's voices of the Joyful Company of Singers in Mendelssohn's incidental music to Shakespeare's play. Barbican, St. Paul's Church, EC2A 4DP. Tel: 011-438 8811. Tonight, 7.30pm.

**TIMELESS:** David Greig's direction for Susanna Clarke's first full-length musical play for four friends and a string quartet. An Edinburgh award.

**TODAY'S CHOICE**

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

Winner in the Four Corners season. *Downside* Westbourne, Gresham Street, WC2 0 111-369 1729. Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. One week only.

**ELSEWHERE**

**BRIGHTON:** English Touring Opera's week-long visit here opens with Leah Hadzaman's production for the company of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. McGrath conducts Rossini's *Sonyata* opera, updated to the 1940s. Alternates with Beethoven's *Piano*.

**LONDON GALLERIES**

British Museum: Arts of Japan (011-733 8525). Design Museum: A tour of bicycle design history (011-737 8525). Dulwich Picture Gallery: Turner (011-893 5264). Hayward: Henry Carter-Benson: European (011-733 8525). Dulwich Picture Gallery: Turner (011-893 5264). Hayward: Henry Carter-Benson: European (011-733 8525). Dulwich Picture Gallery: Turner (011-893 5264). Hayward: Henry Carter-Benson: European (011-733 8525).

**ART:** Roger Asch, Mich. Ford and Jan. Doe in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, friendship, friendship and an almost all-white singing. Windham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 0 111-369 1736. Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**CAMINO REAL:** Tennessee Williams's word of the most romantic play set at the end of everywhere. Steven Pittott's cast from Staines includes David D. Shaw, Peter Egan, Leslie Phillips, Bridger Turner, Susannah York. Young Vic, 65 The Cut, SE 1 011-732 6393. Tonight, 7.15pm in repertoire.

**CHICAGO:** Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical directed by Walter Bobbie. A multi-Tony winner on Broadway last year. Starring Ruthie Henshall, Ute Lemper, Herb Goodman and Nigel Planer. Adelphi, Strand, WC2 0 111-344 0955. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

**CYMBELINE:** A heart-catching ingenue from Jonathan Price is at the centre of Adrian Newell's and the new production with Paul Freeman as Iachimo (a little leger) and Darran Low as Posthumus. Transfer from Stratford. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2A 4DP. 88911. Tonight, 7.15pm in repertoire.

**THE DEAD MONKEY:** David "Hutch" Hutch plays the much harassed hero in a fully funny revival of Peter's farce. Cast includes Graham Crowden, Frank Middlemass, John Padden. Swan, Strand, WC2 0 111-336 8888. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed and Sat, 3pm.

**THEATRE GUIDE**

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**House full, returns only some seats available**

**Seats at all prices**

NW3 011-734 0222. Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat and Sun, 3.30pm.

**THE INVENTION OF LOVE:** Tom Stoppard's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, careful to keep his five live girls, unlike Oscar Wilde, who also appears. Paul Phyllis plays the young Housman and Michael Bryant & Cherie learning the dead across the Sky. Richard Eyre directs. National, Tottenham Court Road, SE 1 011-492 3020. Tonight, 7.30pm, mat Thur, 2.15pm. In rep.

**A LETTER OF RESIGNATION:** Edward Fox and Claire Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy in the comedy. Swan, Strand, WC2 0 111-336 8888. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

**THE MAGISTRATE:** Ian Richardson plays the much harassed hero in a fully funny revival of Peter's farce. Cast includes Graham Crowden, Frank Middlemass, John Padden. Swan, Strand, WC2 0 111-336 8888. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed and Sat, 3pm.

**CLIP OF BLESSED MEMORY:** The production by James H. Jones in a drug-dealing Brooklyn might have worked better on TV. Kingsley Hall, Kingsway, N1 011-296 1916. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. Until March 22.

**THE SURGEON OF HONOUR:** Calderón's don's drama of love, cruelty and the obsession with honour, created by Judith Roberts for the Royal National Theatre Co. Part of the current season. Southwark Playhouse, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, SE 1 011-620 5494. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until April.

**THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE:** Alan Ayckbourn directs Jane Asher in his new comedy about a surprising love and its unrequited consequences on lovers. Uniquely outrageous set. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 011-492 3020. Tonight, 7.45pm, mat Thur and Sat, 3pm.

**LONG RUNNERS**

**Bleedly Strand:** 011-490 8800.

**Case:** New London 011-405 0072.

**Crime:** Cambridge 011-492 3020.

**Julia:** Cambridge 011-492 3020.

**Jesus Christ Superstar:** Lyceum 011-499 1807.

**Las Vegas:** Lyceum 011-434 0509.

**Miles Sillerton:** Drury Lane 011-494 5400.

**Mr. Pinter:** of the 1950s. 5400.

**Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria 011-416 6544.

**Women in Black:** Fortune 011-436 2298.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

**NEW RELEASES**

**AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15):** Obsessive compulsive Jack Nicholson tries to become a better person. Crowd-pleasing manipulative comedy-drama from James L. Brooks. Nominated for 10 Oscars. With Helen Mirren and Gene Hackman. ABC Tottenham Court Road 011-336 6148. Clipping Picture House 011-492 3323. Greenwich 011-811-225 5005. Nottingham Hill Coronet 011-772 6702. Odeon: Camden Town 0181-315 4250. Kensington 0181-315 4214. Marble Arch 0181-315 4216. Swiss Cottage 0181-315 4220. Screen/Barclay Street 011-732 2772. Screen/NB 011-435 2896. UCI Whiteley Road 011-490 8890. Virgin Fulham Road 011-370 2636.

**FALLEN (15):** Serial killings lead homicide detective Daniel Washington towards a demon past called Azazel. Unusually complicated and pretentious thriller, with John Goodman and Embeth Davidtz. Director, Gregory Hoblit. Odeon: Kensington 0181-315 4214. Marble Arch 0181-315 4216. Swiss Cottage 0181-315 4220. Virgin Trocadero 0181-970 8015. Warner 011-437 4343.

**WAG THE DOG (15):** Hollywood producer Dustin Hoffman engages a phony war to deflect the US public from a presidential scandal. Sory political satire, with Robert De Niro and Anne Heche. Director, Barry Levinson. Clipping Picture House 011-492 3323. Odeon: Kensington 0181-315 4214. Swiss Cottage 0181-315 4220.

**CINEMA GUIDE**

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (♦) on release across the country

Phase 011-990 8890. Filby 011-737 2121. UCI Whiteleys 011-490 8890. Virgin Fulham Road 011-370 2636. Warner 011-437 4343.

**CURRENT**

**AMSTAD (15):** Ancient slaves 4078. Director, Kevin Connolly. Aired for murder. Self-important account of an historical event, with splendid patches. Starring: Sean Bean, Anthony Hopkins, Morgan Freeman, Nigel Hawthorne, and many others. ABC Tottenham Court Road 011-336 6148. Clipping Picture House 011-492 3323. Greenwch 011-811-225 5005. Kensington 0181-315 4214. Marble Arch 0181-315 4216. Swiss Cottage 0181-315 4220. Screen/Barclay Street 011-732 2772. Screen/NB 011-435 2896. UCI Whiteley Road 011-490 8890. Virgin Fulham Road 011-370 2636. Warner 011-437 4343.

**THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (15):** Satanist Al Pacino faces Kenan Doolittle as New York law firm. Preposterous drama, both appalling and fun. ABC Tottenham Court Road 011-336 6148. Clipping Picture House 011-492 3323. Greenwch 011-811-225 5005. Kensington 0181-315 4214. Marble Arch 0181-315 4216. Swiss Cottage 0181-315 4220. Screen/Barclay Street 011-732 2772. Screen/NB 011-435 2896. UCI Whiteley Road 011-490 8890. Virgin Fulham Road 011-370 2636. Warner 011-437 4343.

**MRS DALLOWAY (PG):** A society hostess in the 1920s muses on her life's progress. Well-acted treatment of Virginia Woolf's novel, with Gemma Jones, Director, Marion Gons. Chelsea 011-351 3742. Odeon: Hayward 0181-315 4212. Reade 011-837 8402.

**HITS KEEP ON COMING**

**POP**

**Chip Taylor**

**Whelan's, Dublin**

AS SONGWRITING legends go they don't come much more legendary than Chip Taylor. A staff writer for CBS in the 1960s, he was responsible for a clutch of classic songs that span R&B, country and rock'n'roll. The most famous of these is the Troggs' calling card, *Wild Thing*, but there have been so many others that have been re-recorded by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash, Dusty Springfield and Willie Nelson, to name but a few. He is also credited with producing seminal albums by James Taylor and Neil Diamond.

With that pedigree, it seems odd yet strangely exhilarating to see Taylor perform in such a cosy environment as Whelan's bar — the ultimate singer/songwriter venue — to such an intimate gathering.

But although he treated us to his hits (including *Angel of the Morning*, *Any Way That You Want Me* and of course *Wild Thing*) this show was not merely a trip down memory lane for Taylor. He has buckets of new material from which to choose, much of it on a par

**Hits keep on coming**

**POP**

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**Work in progress**

**JAZZ**

**COLIN TOWNS** is one of this country's most prolific and versatile composers of TV and film soundtrack music, so it was no surprise to find that when he turned his attention, in 1993, to writing material for an eponymous album for a 15-piece big band, the Mask Orchestra, he brought to jazz a number of features — drama, immediacy, accessibility, subtly evocative expressiveness — strongly associated with film music.

With *Nowhere & Heaven*, his second Mask Orchestra album, Towns became a touch more ambitious. He extended his band, brought in a vocalist, Maria Pia De Vito, and broadened the music's emotional range to embrace everything from a dispassionate assessment of an artist from his model's point of view.

The first half of this concert, involving an 18-piece Mask Orchestra, plus De Vito, took up the story roughly where this second album left off: after a short introductory swan through an appropriately sensuous song, *Perfume*,

and a couple of new quintet pieces. Towns revisited material from *Nowhere & Heaven*, drawing heavily on the soloing skills of trumpeter Gerard Presencer and saxophonist Julian Arguelles.

For the concert's second half, however, Towns moved right over into third stream music — the jazz/classical hybrid form championed in the 1950s by the likes of Gunther Schuller — by augmenting his jazz players with strings and woodwind, pairing De Vito with fellow singer Norma Winstone, and providing them with a series of songs linked by their source of inspiration: paintings by Edward Burra and Hopper. The latter's *Nighthawk* provided this section's highlight, an imagined conversation between two women dramatically incorporating spoken asides and snatches of sombre vocal melody, all skilfully set against alternately lilting and skittering strings and the jazz element's affecting bluesy chug.

For the most part, though, the classical element was under-employed, and it was left to the likes of saxophonists Peter King and Alan Skidmore to provide the musical high points.

Towns's laudable aim in this project is "to create new sound pictures without losing the excitement and spontaneity of improvised music". While he succeeded in the former ambition — albeit sporadically — success in the latter proved more elusive.

**CHRIS PARKER**

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# The Ring goes back to basics

Two eminent singers have begun an opera company with the grandest of aims. Mike Ashman reports

Malcolm Rivers, bass baritone, and Paul Crook, tenor, have presented their Alberich and Mime (and much else besides) in Britain, America and on many European stages from the 1970s to the present day. Now the two experienced producers are trying some gamekeeping. Putting up the lion's share of the money themselves, they — together with Rivers's businessman brother (he's underwriting our losses, because basically that's what it'll be) — have formed a new opera company, Mastersingers Limited, that will present Wagner in the way that these two experienced singers strongly believe it should be done.

This Saturday, they begin a new Ring cycle with *Das Rheingold* in a concert performance semi-staged by Crook, and in German. "If you're going to do Wagner from the roots, you're going to do it with the right sounds for the singers," he says. The venue is the De Montfort Hall, Leicester — Rivers's home town. "The sound is wonderful there," Rivers says. "We want sound, we're trying to build everything from sound, and the staging will grow out of that."

The orchestra will be sunk in, there will be a proscenium arch, a couple of trapdoors, a cyclorama and some special lighting effects. "The costumes will be basic tuxedos, broken down with rollnecks of different colours and maybe a little bit of sash, to keep that formal feeling," Rivers says. "There will not be a lot of movement. We're doing all four operas, with the (mostly amateur) Baroli Orchestra conducted by Andrew Constantine, first as a concert series so that everybody gets to

know *The Ring* from the inside. We're not going to start off with a production; everybody then fights the production style, trying to come to terms with it while trying to learn their roles at the same time... and we have got a lot of young singers involved.

"We obviously feel the need to fill the gap left in the last 15 or 20 years since Reggie [Goodall] pulled out. ("Went to Valhalla", smiles Crook.) "There's no longer a strong force of English singers that can step in and do these roles at a moment's notice like there used to be," Rivers continues. "We're doing them still, and there are one or two others. We want a performing company of youngsters and some experienced singers."

"When I first went to Covent Garden in 1974 on contract," recalls Crook, "the ensemble was phenomenal and the legacy that Georg Solti left, the standard of the company, was unbelievable. That has been wiped off the face of the earth in the artistic sense."

"Everybody was working towards the centre, which was the music," Rivers adds. "But the centre now is called survival."

There will be just one performance of *Rheingold*, then onward. "If we could get *Walküre* and *Siegfried* done by next Christmas, that will be three done within 18 months — great! Let's say in three years we want the full Ring festival situation, in Leicester, in June, back to back, German one week, English the next." ("Which we used to do in Seattle," notes Crook.)

Their *Rheingold* casting juxtaposes old and new to recreate that ensemble feel. Rivers and Crook reappear, Hitchcock-like, in their signature Nibelheim roles. The experienced Neil Howlett will

be Wotan — and the not-huge role of Froh is ritily reincarnated by one Alberto Remedios, the Siegmund and Siegfried of the Goodall/ENO era.

A two-day audition (slimmed from around 300 original applicants) plus careful listening to the Wagner Society's Bayreuth Bursary winners has brought a tranche of younger singers — Giselle Allen, Edward Caswell, Ruth Peel, Rebecca de Pont Davies among them — to both cast and covers, as well as the hope of seeing brand new names in the roles of Siegmund and Siegfried (the only people in the whole of *The Ring* who actually mean anything in real terms, Rivers jokes. "The rest of it is just power games.") And "the girls are all attractive — which I'm sure Wagner would have liked! I mean, why does Wotan go and see Erda so many times?"

Listening to all these singers in audition, Rivers found that "some of them had got damn good voices, and their languages are pretty good, but they don't communicate with the text and they don't communicate with their personalities either." Crook amplifies the point: "Stagecraft and presentation of character: there should be a niche for that in the colleges somewhere."

"We worked with Reggie here in London," Rivers explains. "And we were coached in our roles in Seattle by the greatest Wagner man in the world: George London [Wieland Wagner's Amfortas and Dutchman, the Wotan on Solti's *Rheingold* recording]. I haven't really worked with a good director on *The Ring* for a very long time. And I don't ever work with any great conductors who let me know



Malcolm Rivers and Paul Crook: after singing Wagner around the world, they launch their own vision of *The Ring* in Leicester this weekend

had to prepare the staging of their first show? "About three days," laugh the directors. "I work everything out beforehand in my mind's eye, please God," explains Crook, citing a similar experience with Mozart's *Figaro* last year in Macclesfield.

But will the new company ever be able to afford festival condition rehearsal periods? "When we can see what we can do in these concerts, we'll know what we need to do for the full production. Then we will take three months out of our lives and get everybody together in a sort of summer camp situation."

Das Rheingold is at De Montfort Hall, Granville Road, Leicester, on Saturday at 7.30pm (tickets 0116 233 3111)

the strength of what they're doing would override anything the director might want to throw my way that's against the music. *The Ring* is such a complete work that as soon as it is 'deconstructed' — the word they are using nowadays — the beauty and the power and the majesty of the music go as well."

A Mastersingers Limited production, says Crook, "is not going to be distracting from the actual music and text. I'm going to try and do it as simply as possible, following Wagner's instructions. *The Rings of the Fifities* at Bayreuth that Wieland Wagner did were excellent with lighting and very simple shapes."

And how much time will Mastersingers Limited have

## Devil gets the best tunes

Mefistofele Barbican Hall

The Royal Opera-in-exile's exploration of off-centre repertoire is bringing rich rewards, and there could be few better candidates for concert performance than Arrigo Boito's version of *Faust*, since the full-scale staging is probably not high on any company's list of priorities.

*Mefistofele* is certainly "important", but more for what it sets out to do than for what it achieves. At a time of fervent patriotism following the unification of Italy, Boito's decision to set a German subject in a determinedly non-Italian musical style was a conscious

act of provocation, and seen as such. The notices after the disastrous Milan premiere in 1868 reflect this.

Whether or not the result is successful as an opera, as opposed to a pan-European gesture, is a subject for debate. Boito could not have been more ambitious in seeking to encapsulate the whole of Goethe's dramatic work in the brief, his dramaturgy could be described as boldly experimental or barely competent, according to taste. And while noting that Gounod aimed lower but hit the target, you remember that in one of the few key lines in Goethe that Boito did not set to music, "he who strives may be forgiven".

As you would expect from the librettist of *Otello* and *Falstaff* the piece is text-led, and the largely illustrative musical response to such richly-coloured language varies from the inspired to the, well, less inspired.

But the good bits are indeed very good, and it is beyond dispute that Boito created a full-scale star role for a dramatic bass. In these respects Saturday's concert was a triumph. Samuel Ramey was in splendid form in the title role, wrapping his rich bass round the spiky language with devilish relish (and, perhaps not inappropriately in a European opera, with one or two oddly un-Italian vowel sounds).

Much of the work's impact depends on sheer volume of sound, but Haitink went that vital step further, so sharpening the long choral paragraphs that the climaxes when they came, overwhelming, were well and truly earned. Boito could not have had a more fervent advocate.

Even in concert terms he was the sardonic demon incarnate, right down to his red socks.

Faust and Margherita are little more than lay figures in Boito's scheme, but they too were cast from strength. Richard Margison, a real tenor with bright, trumpet tone, was a little unsparing of volume in the first part, but calmed down for the later scenes where most of the best music comes.

Nelly Miricioiu, stepping in as she so often does, this time for Elena Prokina, sang with such sureness of style, such generosity of spirit, that one wishes she were less often the bridesmaid, more often the blushing bride. She deserves it.

But the real hero of the evening was, perhaps unexpectedly, Bernard Haitink. He inspired both orchestra and Terry Edwards's chorus to a brilliance, a clarity and a sense of communal commitment exceptional even by their own current form, and treated the uneven score as seriously as if it were by Bruckner himself.

Rodney Milnes

### BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available CDs, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

SCHUMANN'S HUMORESQUE Reviewed by Bryce Morrison

SCHUMANN'S *Humoresque* was composed in eight days in a white-hot burst of creativity. Writing to his beloved Clara, Schumann said: "I have been at work at the piano, composing, writing, laughing and crying all at once. You will find this state of things nicely described in my Opus 20."

Shaken and bemused by his own ecstasy, he spoke of alternating moods of elation and despair, of wit and reflection, and the appearance of his two most dearly cherished fictions, Florestan, the man of action, and Eusebius, the man of dreams. Significantly, he felt that the *Humoresque* came down on the side of melancholy, a portent of his own increasing cloudiness and mental instability.

Yet the *Humoresque* is a less dark-hued masterpiece than, say, the *Kreutzeriana* or *Bunte Hütten*, and it is heartening to find an increasing number of pianists willing to tease out its enigma on record. Of these,

It is sad to hear Horowitz (RCA), Kempff (DG) and Alicia de Larrocha (RCA) sounding long past their prime. Ashkenazy (Decca) offers more energy than poetry, while Amos Kuerti (Fluors de Lys), a most fascinating and individual pianist, is inclined to go his own way rather than the composer's. Nikolai Demidenko's formidable, all-Russian mastery (on Sanctus) is also qualified by an oddly withdrawn view of the section marked *hastig*, and an unrhythmic conclusion.

Of the front runners Sviatoslav Richter (*Melody*, recorded in 1968) and Radu Lupu make choice a personal and tantalising issue. But of the two I have to say that Radu Lupu (Decca 440 496-2, £15.49) is surely the more probing, the most subtly and sharply attuned to sadness and humour, to every teasing nuance. Finely described as a "lyricism in a thousand", all beautifully recorded by Decca, he takes us through every facet of Schumann's dream-world before, in the final *Allegro*, frog-marching us back to reality.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 496; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (pm): Prokofiev's Symphony No 5

### CONCERTS: Elliott Carter in context; Messiaen at length for the Millennium

If you can judge a man by the company he keeps, then Elliott Carter's stature was certainly confirmed at the Barbican in the first of two concerts in which the London Symphony Orchestra and Pierre Boulez are celebrating the American composer's 90th birthday year.

Boulez himself devised a programme in which, typically, connections were there to be teased out by each listener. Ravel, Stravinsky and Prokofiev were the guards of honour round Carter's own 1968 *Three Occasions for Orchestra*. As the evening unfolded, there was a satisfying and moving sense of acts of homage being made, and of a cumulative celebration of Carter's own journey from years of concentrated searching and complexity to a simpler, more relaxed enjoyment of his own hard-forged language.

Carter's own music was graciously ushered in by Ravel's *Valse nobles et sentimentales*. This was a debonair performance of meticulously balanced tones and half-tones, in which at least half the pleasure was derived from watching the way in which Boulez's spare hand gestures perfectly incarnated the sounds they controlled. These heady tributes to Schubert formed the perfect aperitif for the Carter *Occasions*, each one a deft and felicitous act of homage.

The first, *A Celebration of Some 100 x 150 Notes*, is a three-minute fanfare to mark the 150th anniversary of the state of Texas, in which 150 bars of music unfold at 150

## Accompanied by absent friends

beats per minute. Just the stuff for Boulez, of course, who relished the game, and whose wit met Carter's own in an airy, quizzical performance. Then came a dark *Remembrance*, a memorial to Paul Fromm, champion of new music in America. Here, in a mode typical of Carter's later

works, an elegiac melody is unfolded, in this case by solo trombone, against a shifting sequence of transparent, sustained chords. The third *Occasion* celebrates Carter's own 50th wedding anniversary in a little dance of the spheres for woodwind and tenderly singing strings.

After this, a fourth occasion was waiting in the wings, in the shape of violinist Maxim Vengerov. The warm and quiet mutual respect between Boulez and Vengerov transferred itself musically into a moving duet of performance in Stravinsky's Violin Concerto, where Boulez breathed out the composer's homage to Bach and Vengerov mischievously, fancifully and audaciously refracted that celebration through the sensibility of the 20th century.

HILARY FINCH

## Lengthily given the bird

While it was not the most challenging of this year's Towards the Millennium concerts, Saturday's performance at Birmingham Symphony Hall did include one of the longest works in the whole orchestral repertoire. Lasting about 100 minutes, Messiaen's *Des Canyons aux étoiles* is longer than any Bruckner, Mahler or Shostakovich symphony, longer even than any other orchestral work by Messiaen himself.

Actually, if Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra had been performing one of Mahler's longer symphonies, they might well have given it a concert to itself. This Messiaen piece, however, they most illuminatingly coupled with Boulez's *Rituel in Memoriam Bruno Maderna*. At no more than 25 minutes it made a short first half, but one of such density that it more or less balanced the panoramic observations on the other side of the interval.

It was well chosen too because, of all Boulez's works, it most clearly reveals the influence of Messiaen on his former pupil. Appropriately, bearing in mind its memorial function, the Boulez work derives much from *Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum*, not least in its ritualistic use of gongs and other percussion. The decade-by-decade approach adopted by Rattle in the Towards the Millennium series has tended to obscure historical continuity rather than illuminate it. But here — in the progression from *Et exspecto*, featured in last year's survey of the 1960s, to *Rituel*, one of the key works of the 1970s — was a clear case of cause and effect. It was all the more interesting for the pres-

ence of *Des Canyons aux étoiles* which, heard after the sharply focused but by no means inexpressive Boulez piece, seemed over-indulgent both in its awed admiration of the Utah landscape and its faith in the magical effect of birdsong. In the ten years following *Et exspecto* Messiaen seemed to have lost something of his grasp on musical reality and his instinct for atmosphere.

Happily, Paul Crossley was present as piano soloist, performing his mainly avian role with extraordinary accomplishment and unflinching inspiration. Rattle and the CSO had delivered a most convincing interpretation of the Boulez but in the Messiaen of a Crossley to sustain faith in the composer's judgment.

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LAW

A little legal nightmare

Sarah Rowlands, a solicitor, makes a plea for reform of the small claims Court

I am a lawyer who specialises in litigation. For the past six months I have been embroiled in a small claim to recover £200. And I seem no closer to getting it than when the case started. If I, as a solicitor, cannot achieve justice in the small claims court, what chance have non-lawyers, for whom the system is supposedly intended?

Until January 1996, the small claims limit had been £1,000 for all cases; this was then increased for non-personal injury cases to £3,000 by the Conservative Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Under the small claims system, disputes are intended to be resolved quickly and informally by a district judge at an arbitration hearing.

The significance of a case being brought under this procedure is that no legal costs can be recovered from the losing party, the theory being that such cases are so straightforward that claimants do not require any legal advice or representation. At the solicitors' annual conference in October 1997, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, described the small claims procedure as a major success of our civil justice system.

The claim system should be made less open to abuse

the concerns which prevent many potential claimants from taking this initial step. In order to initiate proceedings, plaintiffs must complete a court form setting out the legal basis of their claim, and pay a court issue fee.

Under the small claims system, people will often have no opportunity to receive legal advice before deciding whether or not to start proceedings. It is difficult to see how claimants can make an informed decision about whether to pursue their claim if they do not know the legal strengths and weaknesses of their case.

Housing disrepair cases, for example, generally require expert evidence in the form of a surveyors' report, which may cost several hundred pounds. For a claim worth £1,000 to £5,000, the plaintiff would also have to pay £80 to start his or her case at court — although all this expenditure may eventually be recovered from the opponents if the claim is successful.

What is clear, from my experience is the way in which litigation-wise defendants can play the system to their own advantage. A plaintiff with less knowledge of how courts work may have given up on my case when it was transferred to Grantham (a long way to go to recover £200) rather than writing a persuasive letter to the district judge, asking him to transfer the case



Rowlands: "I am bringing my case as a matter of principle more than anything else"

back again. No matter how helpful the court staff and how many leaflets they produce, there will never be a level playing field for plaintiffs who are bringing their claims against businesses, or even individuals, who are used to the system.

Even if litigants in this person do get as far as an arbitration hearing, they may find themselves arguing against more wealthy opponents who can afford to pay for legal representation, even though those costs will never be reimbursed. In his recent consultation paper on small claims, the Lord Chancellor himself acknowledges that this problem may well increase under the new proposals, when more money is likely to be at stake.

Recent research carried out by the Consumers' Association suggests that winning the case is the easy part; trying to get money out of the defendants after judgment is when the fun really starts. According to its figures, more than a third of successful claimants under the procedure have not received their money from the other party six months after the arbitration hearing — 17 per cent never do. This is hardly surprising given the confusion around the various enforcement procedures, the lack of assistance provided by the courts and the further fee which must be paid by the plaintiff.

I am bringing my case as a matter of principle more than anything else, and the amount at stake is very low. What concerns me is that, if Lord Irvine's proposals are brought in, people with cases worth up to £5,000 and who have less legal knowledge than I do, will have to battle through the same system.

What is needed is genuine reform of the small claims system to make the procedure more straightforward and less open to abuse by defendants who know that they run no risk of having to pay the other party's legal costs. The Lord Chancellor's proposals serve only to reduce even further the access to justice for people bringing small claims.

The end of lawyers' self-regulation?

What purpose, from a consumer's point of view, has the Law Society professional body for 70,000 solicitors in England and Wales? Last May and for the past two or three years elections took place for the presidency of the Law Society. It is not a particularly edifying spectacle to watch. This is partly because of the vitriol expressed at the time and partly because there seemed to be little, if any, concern about the consumer or the public interest generally but plenty about improving the lot of the highest street solicitor.

There is now a view that a fundamental change is occurring on the whole issue of self-regulation. That change could involve not only the Law Society but also the Bar Council, a fact the council might not wish to acknowledge publicly but about which it must be concerned. Because it is inevitable that on this issue both bodies will sink or swim together.

Ten years ago the Green Paper that led to the Courts and Legal Services Act, 1990 was published. The resultant debate continued uninterrupted until the Act's passage. Out of that debate came an Act that took away much of the legal profession's self-regulation. The Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct was created and today it is the final arbiter of all proposed professional rule changes concerning conduct and legal education.

There have been recent suggestions that, because of its somewhat unwhipped approach to decision-making, some of its areas of interest will be removed.

There has also been the increasingly interventionist role of the Legal Aid Board. Backed by its financial strength, the board is acting for the consumer in imposing, often on a reluctant legal profession, higher standards of service in giving legal advice.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor the Exchequer, has cast further doubt on the future of the Law Society in its role as a regulated professional body in the context of solicitors providing financial services. Surely the Financial Services Authority could, as its American equivalent does, regulate solicitors in matters involving financial services and advice. Common sense dictates that it should be the responsibility of the authority, but the decision could go either way.

What then is left for the Law Society to regulate and, even if the answer is that there is still enough to warrant a body such as the society exercising regulatory powers over the profession, is the profession's council a satisfactory guardian of the consumer interest,

given the increasingly strident claims by so many of its members that seem to relate primarily to the interests of solicitors rather than consumers?

This was never more clearly shown than in the recent debate about property selling by solicitors when an observer could have been forgiven for wondering what was to happen to the consumer's interests. If the proposed changes occur, solicitors will have a financial interest in the estate agency operation.

That is why the new Government could well be the final nail in the coffin of self-regulation. Given that the candidates have to appeal to the solicitor-voter (consumers, naturally, having no vote in this exercise), the blandishments are increasingly couched to win solicitor approval. Little is said about improving the service for the benefit of any consumer for even to realise that there is increasing competition from other professionals such as accountants, because that would probably mean if not increasing regulation, certainly increased practising certificate fees.

There are many who believe that the age of the professions is coming to an end, possibly with the millennium. Perhaps it is more realistic, as well as sensible, for bodies such as the Law Society to represent, as any trade association does, its members.

One has only to attend a debate of the Law Society Council to realise how inward-looking are some of the points raised. There is no shame in that. After all, the British Medical Association represents doctors effectively on such a basis and medicine is still considered a profession.

The reality probably is that commercial pressures have made the conflict between the representative role and the regulatory one impossible to sustain. Those commercial pressures can only increase and, in doing so, make self-regulation even more suspect in the eye of the consumer. When this is added to the explosive cocktail of annual presidential elections, it is clear that change to the established order becomes more likely.

If there are to be extended annual elections, based on who can do most for the high street solicitor in easing his or her lot, can one continue to pretend that there can be any real reflection of the need to protect the client? This is a new aspect and it is one that is not going to disappear, as it may have in the past. It is also an aspect that should be in the minds of those who will be asked to vote in the next presidential election.

The author, a former President of the Law Society, is now principal ombudsman at the Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman Bureau.



TONY HOLLAND

Bean to the gym?

IT IS little wonder that the £20,000 gym which has been installed in the basement of the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) in Selbourne House, Victoria, is proving so popular. Last week The Times revealed that 200 staff had signed up to the gym since it opened just before Christmas. No doubt they are trying to work off the effects of all those cholesterol-rich traditional English fry-ups they have been eating in the LCD canteen. The dish, which includes bacon, sausages, fried tomatoes and baked beans, is being temptingly advertised throughout Selbourne House for only £2.20.

Thorny LORD ACKNER, the former law lord, was a regular thorn in the side of Lord Mackay of Clashfern when he was the Lord Chancellor. He is subjecting the new Lord Chancellor to exactly the same treatment. An arch opponent of conditional fees, Lord Ackner took advantage of the Lords debate on the Government's legal aid reform plan last week to re-

OUTS

mind Lord Irvine of Lairg that shortly before he became Lord Chancellor, he had described legal aid as "a highly successful public social service". He went on to call for more research into whether conditional fees were working properly before their scope was

extended and described Lord Irvine's current position — that more research may be necessary in the future — as "grossly unsatisfactory". Monitoring how the fees are operating would have shown that litigants were being "tipped off", his lordship said.

Has there, he asked, been some "economy with the truth" in describing "no win" arrangements as working well? There is still time for a reduced ticket for the 1998 Women Lawyer Conference on April 25 — but only until the end of March. The conference looks like being a sell-out. Details, and nomination forms for The Times Women of Achievement in the Law Award: Blair Communications, 0171-722 9731.

Tops at faking it

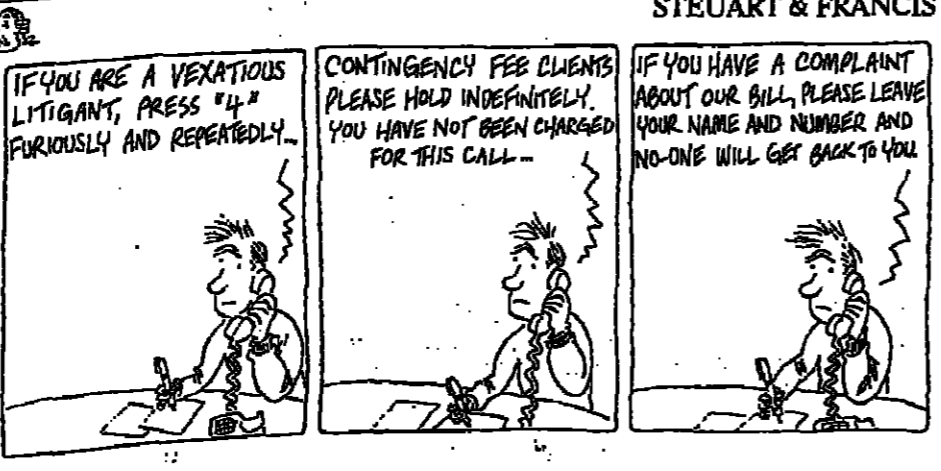


Caveat emptor: all these goods are counterfeit THE Holborn law firm Collyer-Bristow's new exhibition is called Fake. Opening on April 1, it includes seemingly branded goods such as Nike shoes, Chanel No 5, Johnny Walker whisky and Pepsi-Cola — all counterfeits. Christopher Rennie-Smith, intellectual property partner at the firm, says it is entertainment with a serious message — "the damage that counterfeiting can do." The exhibition runs for April at the firm's gallery in Bedford Row. Details: 0171-242 7363.

Buggins off THE attempt by the former Law Society President Tony Gilling to introduce a variation of Buggins's turn system for electing the society's office holders has failed. At its last meeting, the society's council decisively rejected the plan that it should hold annual mini-elections to choose up to three "official" candidates for the deputy vice-presidency. Some council members suggested during the debate that the proposal was intended to influence the forthcoming election, which Mr Gilling denied. The unceremonious ditching is a personal setback for Mr Gilling. SCRIVENOR

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Due to continuing growth, a new role has been created. Reporting to the Managing Director, the new European Counsel will be responsible for the management of legal and business affairs for the region. As an integral part of the management team, you will advise on corporate and commercial issues including acquisitions, joint ventures, production, commissioning, satellite, transmission facilities and cable distribution arrangements. Your profile:

- A qualified lawyer with 4-8 years post qualification experience.
- A solid media, cable or telecoms background with strong commercial exposure.
- A team orientated approach with commercial flair.
- An outgoing personality with a good sense of humour, allied to excellent communication and presentation skills.

This is an outstanding opportunity to join a dedicated management team in a progressive global organisation where individual career development is given paramount importance.

Interested candidates should contact Daniel Richards, our retained consultant on 0171 269 2234 or write to him at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, fax 0171 405 2936, e-mail: danielrichards@michaelpage.com This assignment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page and direct third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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Central London £ Highly Competitive

Fox Kids Europe Limited, following successful launches in the UK, France and Holland, is in the process of launching branded children's satellite and cable channels across Europe.

The legal aspects of this fast moving business, demand legal advisers of the highest calibre. Reporting to the Director of Legal Affairs, you will work closely with senior management and advise on all legal and regulatory aspects relevant to the launch and operation of channels in Europe. Experience in broadcasting is preferable but not essential. Two new positions are being created.

#### Legal Adviser

- 2-4 years pqq gained in practice or in-house.
- Relevant legal experience advising the media sector.

#### Junior Legal Adviser

- NQ-1 year qualified solicitor or barrister.
- Strong emphasis on commercial and IP experience.

These positions require excellent drafting, negotiating and interpersonal skills, commercial sense and most importantly the drive and determination to provide the highest quality legal service.

For further information and in complete confidence, telephone Daniel Richards on 0171 269 2234 or write to him enclosing your CV, details of current salary and a statement of suitability at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN. Fax 0171 405 2936 e-mail: danielrichards@michaelpage.com

Please do not send CVs direct to Fox Kids Europe Limited. Closing date for applications Thursday 26th March 1998.

Michael Page

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The winning essay, by Adam Speker, in The Times Law Awards, with One Essex Court

Adam Speker, a history graduate now studying at the College of Law, won first prize in this year's Times Law Awards competition with his essay on the set topic, Privacy and the press: is law the answer? The results were announced last week.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, presented him with a cheque for £3,000 at a reception in the Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn, hosted by One Essex Court, sponsors of the awards.

The second prize of £2,000 went to Ben McFarlane, a law student at University College, Oxford, and third prize (£1,000) to Paul McQuade, a third-year student of law and political science at Dundee University.

The three runners-up, each of whom wins £100, were Louise Oxford, a student at Leeds University; Sarah Palin, a history graduate studying for the Bar at City University; and Dominic Rose, an Oxford Classics and English graduate now at the College of Law.

The winners were chosen from more than 220 entries by a panel of judges led by the Lord Chancellor and including Lord Hoffmann, the law lord, and Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times.

# The nation is still divided



Lord Irvine congratulates Adam Speker, top, and below, the runner-up, Ben McFarlane



Despite the overtures from new Labour, Britain is still divided. Not between Eurosceptics and Europhiles but between the Eights and the Tens. Eights like privacy and secrecy and support Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). They tend to be civil servants, ministers, members of the security services and famous people with something to hide. Their zenith was the Spycatcher case. Tens like openness and freedom of expression and are champions of article 10. They tend to be journalists, broadcasters, intellectuals and liberals. Their defining moment was meant to be the incorporation of the ECHR, entrenching human rights into British law.

The Great British Public moves between the two groups; the jury box often providing an indication of where they are at a particular time. When they are Tens they stand up for freedom, as in the Lady Chatterley trial or the Ponting case. When they are Eights they punish newspapers by awarding the likes of Elton John, Jeffrey Archer and Sonia Sutcliffe massive settlements in defamation actions.

contempt of court, obscenity, breach of confidence, trespass and libel; as well as by a code of conduct set out by the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). Furthermore, seeking injunctions to try to stop newspapers publishing a story is a common tactic in libel and alleged breach of confidence cases, especially where national security is concerned. Injunctions, although difficult to obtain if the defence argues justification, do result in some stories never seeing the light of day.

All these restrictions on reporting serve to limit the activities of legitimate investigative journalists while not being able to stop the actions of those at the lower end of the market. Nor would a privacy law. It would mean a long and expensive trial which would take place years after the alleged breach and only serve to remind the public of something they had long since forgotten. Not only is the remedy impracticable but legislation will hinder the ability of the press to perform its essential role in a democratic society: to provide a check on those in power and inform the public so that we are able to make informed choices about those who govern us.

That does not mean, however, that journalists have the right to behave in a manner akin to stalkers and intruders. There must be limits on the way they pursue their stories. The Protection from Harassment Act 1997, a law which is already on the statute book, although some parts are not yet in force, may be a sensible solution to the problems of an intrusive few. Those who knowingly and unreasonably pursue "a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another" will be liable for either a civil tort or a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment. This can be used against those whose actions are excessive. As for the PCC, Brian MacArthur wrote in The Times on November 28 that Lord Irvine of Lairg has suggested that it "could become a privacy tribunal if it set up a fund for victims of press intrusion and thereby sidelined the threat of judges assuming the task". If a journalist is convicted he should be fined or have his press card confiscated by the PCC.

No law should be introduced either by judges or through Parliament which would be unworkable; disregarded by those who are expected to follow it; and riding on the back of public indignation over extremely unusual events. For too long the Eights have presided over British public life well aware of what Hobbes meant when he wrote "knowledge is power". In a democracy, that power should rest with the public; a situation which can exist only if the press is free to inform.

## Rights we still don't have

A police constable tells Paul Donovan why we need a written constitution

Tony Leonard is worried that British people are subjects, not citizens, have no rights and live in a secretive, unaccountable society. He favours a written constitution and a Freedom of Information Act. He also believes in a Bill of Rights, which is now passing through Parliament.

ability to restrict citizens' rights - to information, freedom of speech, privacy, association and security." The mechanism to safeguard these rights would be a written constitution presided over by a constitutional court.



Leonard: went public

Mr Leonard formed his views when working on policing with former Eastern bloc countries; he has since been the British Government's adviser to the Czech and Slovak Governments on reorganisation and retraining of their forces. He says: "I often had to discuss the relationship between central and local government. Sometimes they would ask 'How do you interject this right into your constitution and what does your constitution say about this?'"

He also claims that the last Conservative administration was never going to tackle the causes of crime. "The Tories' approach was just punitive, with no regard for the social consequences of some of their economic and industrial policies."

To address the causes would have "hit at the heart of their macroeconomic policy of keeping down inflation through high unemployment". They had also been "quite successful at shifting debate on constitutional implications arising out of legislative and technological change".

"disclosure and admissibility of all evidence in criminal cases" plus an end to the suppression of complete areas of evidence "under the banner of public-interest immunity".

The Scott Inquiry revelations worried him. "The system seemed prepared to let innocent people go to prison rather than embarrass ministers or civil servants," he says, "and there was blanket use of public-interest immunity certificates."

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Please contact Dominique W Pongelly, Bryn Bowden or Andrea Mchirek (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office of Garfield Robbins for more information in complete confidence. Call Evenings/Weekends 0181 960 6144 Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email: dominique.w.p@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

## COPYRIGHT OFFICER

£20,000

3 year fixed-term appointment with the possibility of extension or permanency

Taunton

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office is the global leader for navigational charts and publications. Our products are used extensively by international shipping, the Royal Navy and commercial vessels throughout the world.

We have a wide range of chart and services and we need to exploit and protect our intellectual property. The team in our Copyright Section negotiates and issues copyright licenses, maintains a license data base, provides specialist advice within the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office and monitors the use of Crown copyright data.

Within the team, you will draft and maintain license agreements, including new product licenses, develop licenses to meet new requirements, calculate royalties and supervise the production of invoices and the databasing of license data.

You should have the ability to give specialist advice and, after training, represent the UK's position on international committees. In addition, you will need the skill to detect and action cases of copyright infringement and assist the Copyright Manager in policy development.

You will need at least 1 year's experience in a business environment which gave you significant exposure to the handling of IPR and copyright issues and related financial matters. Computer literate, you should be able to work independently and analyse factual data and decide on the appropriate action. The ability to communicate clearly and confidently is essential. Negotiating skills would be an advantage, as would a training in, or experience of, contract law.

This post is a 3 year fixed-term appointment, with the possibility of permanency or extension. As well as an attractive salary, benefits include a largely non-contributory pension scheme and relocation expenses where appropriate.

Further information and an application form are available from Personnel Section 2, The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, Admiralty Way, Taunton TA1 1DN. Telephone: 01823 337900 ext 3460. Closing date for completed applications is 3rd April 1998. Please quote reference IT.

THE UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

## COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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Rees & Freres is a long-established Westminster firm with a thriving property practice handling general commercial property, planning and development work of a high quality.

The firm has developed a specialisation in commercial property work relating to the railway industry and they now seek a 2-4 year qualified solicitor with general commercial property experience. The work is wide ranging and includes sales and acquisitions of freehold land, preparation and negotiation of commercial leases and drafting development agreements.

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If you would like further information, please ring David Woolfson or send him your c.v. Strict confidentiality assured

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**PROPERTY LITIGATION** 0-2 Years' PQE  
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**CORPORATE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT** 3 Years' PQE  
We have many part and full time positions within top 20 firms for corporate know-how lawyers with at least 3 years' exp. Yellow Book experience is essential as is a sound academic background and excellent organisational skills. Superb remuneration packages on offer. Ref: 5747.

**BANKING - FEE EARNING/KNOW-HOW** 0-15 Years' PQE  
Demand for banking expertise is as high as ever and many law firms continue to recruit. As well as the usual array of fee-earning positions in large City law firms and the London offices of US, Scottish and other foreign law firms we seek know-how lawyers (5+ years' exp) seeking a crucial, but not 'front-line', position in a UK or US practice. Ref: 5633.

**MEDIA & TELECOMS FINANCE** 2-3 Years' PQE  
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**INTERNET/IT/COMMUNICATIONS** Hong Kong  
This is your chance to become the leading lawyer in your field within the S.E. Asian region. Focusing on all aspects of electronic commerce: internet, IT and some telecoms, you will have the freedom to develop the practice with the full support and expertise of the firm worldwide. Ref: 6046.

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**PROPERTY LAWYER (TEAM MANAGEMENT ROLE)** Partner Designate  
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**PRIVATE TAX** City  
The Private Client group of this mid-size firm currently consists of 2 partners (both mentioned in Chambers Directory 1997/98) and 3 associates. They wish to add at least two further lawyers to the team whether acting partners or senior associates to be groomed for partnership. Ref: 4182.

**FIXED INCOME TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT** In House  
A leading international investment house is seeking a first-rate lawyer with proven specialist experience to work alongside a well-known and well-respected figure in the field. 4-6 years' experience of MTN's, CP and bonds gained in-house or at a top law firm will secure an interview. Ref: 6136. Contact: Paul Runnades.

**CAPITAL MARKETS** In House  
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**IT - IN-HOUSE** (3-4 Years' PQE) London  
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**EUROPEAN COUNSEL - IN-HOUSE** London  
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# Malicious prosecution limitation

# Section creates 'activity' offence

**Dunlop v Commissioners of Customs and Excise**

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Brooke

Judgment March 12

The cause of action for malicious prosecution did not accrue until all the essential elements of the tort were present, including a favourable determination of earlier proceedings against the plaintiff.

Accordingly, for the purposes of section 2 of the Limitation Act 1980, where criminal proceedings were brought against the plaintiff, the limitation period in his action for malicious prosecution did not start to run until his acquittal.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, John Dunlop, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Collins on November 2, 1995 of his claim for malicious prosecution.

On October 31, 1988 Mr Dunlop was stopped and searched by customs officers at Heathrow airport and a number of pornographic magazines were found and seized. The plaintiff was detained and during the evening customs officers forced entry into his home under the authority of a search warrant. There they found some 106 magazines which the plaintiff accepted were adult heterosexual pornographic magazines.

The plaintiff was subsequently charged with two offences contrary to sections 70(2) and 70(1)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 of being knowingly concerned in a fraudulent evasion of a

prohibition on the importation of goods and of being knowingly concerned in the harbouring, keeping or concealing of goods with intent to evade a prohibition on the importation thereof.

The plaintiff was committed for trial on January 11, 1989 and pleaded not guilty before Isleworth Crown Court. On April 27, 1989 Mr Recorder Kallipetis, QC, having heard legal submissions, directed that verdicts of not guilty should be entered under section 17 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

On April 24, 1995 the plaintiff issued a writ claiming damages for conversion, damages for unlawful detention and damages for malicious prosecution.

The defendants, the Commissioners for Customs and Excise, claimed that the alleged causes of action did not arise within six years before the cause of action and were barred by section 2 of the Limitation Act 1980. Master Rose decided on October 4, 1995 that three of the four causes of action were barred. The judge affirmed the master's decision. The plaintiff obtained leave to appeal the order dismissing his action for malicious prosecution.

Mr Nigel Ley for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Kent, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the issue was when the cause of action accrued where the tort was that of malicious prosecution.

The master and the judge, in effect, decided that the cause of action accrued at the time criminal proceedings were instituted against the plaintiff, that is, some

time before January 11, 1989 and that the action was statute barred.

The plaintiff maintained that the cause of action was not complete and did not accrue until the criminal proceedings were determined in his favour on April 27, 1989 and that as a consequence his writ was issued three days before the limitation period expired.

Modern authority established that the favourable determination of the earlier proceedings was one of the essential elements that a plaintiff claiming damages for malicious prosecution had to prove as part of that cause of action.

Mr Kent urged upon the court that there was one single tort of maliciously setting in motion legal process, that the elements of that tort or cause of action must be the same in each case; that it was only the sub-category of malicious prosecution in which the need to show that the proceedings had terminated favourably to the plaintiff arose; that that requirement could not arise in cases such as maliciously procuring a search warrant; and that therefore the requirement of a favourable termination of proceedings was not an essential element of the tort or cause of action.

It was an element of plaintiff in proceedings based on malicious prosecution had to prove, which if not proved would bar his right of action. That was a requirement based on public policy that there should not be concurrent proceedings in which two courts might come to different conclusions, or, if the criminal proceedings were an end the person accused in those proceedings should not be able to

say in other proceedings which were not an appeal against conviction that his conviction was wrong.

The answer to that submission, in his Lordship's judgment, was that "cause of action" meant that which made action possible. Definitions of the tort of malicious prosecution all set out a favourable determination of the earlier proceedings as one element that the plaintiff suing on the cause of action had to prove.

Mr Kent said that it would be open to a plaintiff to start his action for malicious prosecution while the prosecution of him in the criminal court was proceeding and, if a defendant applied to strike out the writ on the basis that it was premature, to argue that the writ had been issued to protect the plaintiff's position with regard to limitation and that if the criminal proceeding ended unfavourably for him undertaking to abandon his action.

On his Lordship's reading of the authorities to which the court had been referred, no court had approached the matter in that way. The conclusion his Lordship had reached was that the favourable determination of the proceedings forming the basis of the action for malicious prosecution was a necessary element of the cause of action which did not accrue until all the essential elements of the tort were present. Consequently, in the present case the limitation period did not start to run until April 27.

Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Kaye Testler & Cox Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

**Regina v Martin Regina v White**

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Holland and Mrs Justice Smith

Judgment February 20

Section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 created an "activity" offence which could relate to a single incident or a number of separate incidents forming an activity either of which could be charged in one count.

Where there were discrepancies between the contents of an affidavit made pursuant to a restraint order made under section 77 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and subsequent evidence given by an accused at trial, it was permissible to cross-examine an accused as to his credit on the contents of the affidavit.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when dismissing the appeals of Ellis Anthony Martin and James Robert White against their convictions at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Pearlman) of two offences of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of duty chargeable on alcoholic drinks contrary to section 70(2) of the 1979 Act.

The appellants used two methods to evade the imposition of duty on alcoholic drink. The original indictment charged a single offence of fraudulent evasion between November 1993 and June 1994. Following submissions at trial that the prosecution count was duplicitous, count 1 was split into count 1A and 1B which referred to each method of duty evasion separately.

Section 170 of the 1979 Act provides: "(2) ... if any person is, in relation to any goods, in any way knowingly concerned in any fraudulent evasion or attempt at evasion ... he shall be guilty of an offence under this section ... and may be detained."

Mr Edmund Lawson, QC and Mr Andrew Lloyd-Eley, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for Martin; Mr David Cooks, QC and Mr David H. A. Williams, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for White; Mr Oliver Sells, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that he had accepted the submissions of the Crown that section 70(2) of the 1979 Act was widely drawn and the language of the section created an "activity" offence which could relate to incidents taking place at various times and places over a period of

time. In some cases it might relate to one incident or, as in the present case, a number of incidents constituting a continuing activity. His Lordship referred to *R v Masood Asif* (1996) 32 Cr App R 123.

However count 1 as originally drawn was duplicitous as section 70(2) did not permit one count to cover two different activities. The wide scope given by the section did not obviate the need to draft indictments, so far as the facts allowed, which were substantive and specific.

A restraint order pursuant to section 77 of the 1988 Act was made against Martin who was required to complete an affidavit of his means.

The order stated: "Provided that no disclosure made in compliance with this order shall be used in the prosecution of an offence alleged to have been committed by the person required to make that disclosure or by any spouse of that person."

The subsequent affidavit completed by Martin failed to make any reference to a company he owned whose activities formed a substantial part of his defence.

The question before the court was whether cross-examination at trial by the prosecution relating to that omission from the affidavit

constituted a breach of the terms of the order pursuant to which it had been made and infringed the common law rule against self-incrimination.

His Lordship referred to section 31(1) of the Theft Act 1969 and *In re O* (Restraint order: Disclosure of assets) (1991) 2 QB 520, 528, 530 where Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, had suggested a form of words identical to that used in the order as a way of avoiding a conflict between section 77 and the common-law rule against self-incrimination.

His Lordship concluded it would be wrong for the prosecution to be excluded from sight of such an affidavit until a confiscation order was sought but could not envisage any circumstances in which any such affidavit could become admissible in evidence at the request of the Crown.

However the proviso to the order did not prevent the Crown from cross-examining the deponent, as accused, to credit in reliance upon the content of an affidavit sworn pursuant to a restraint order.

No material irregularity arose as, if leave to cross-examine on the affidavit had been sought, it would inevitably have been granted.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

# 'All endeavours' clause is enforceable

**Lambert v HTV Cymru (Wales) Ltd and Another**

Before Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Patrick Russell

Judgment March 5

A clause in a contract obliging the purchaser to "use all reasonable endeavours to obtain the rights of first negotiation for any assignee" was unenforceable for lack of certainty.

It was quite clear what the contracting party was obliged to do and the aim was sufficiently certain, nor was it less so because there was a wide range of goals at which the endeavours were to be directed.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal against the order of Mr Justice Chadwick dated December 13, 1996 on the hearing of a summons issued on August 12, 1996 by the first defendant, HTV Cymru (Wales) Ltd, television programme producers and a subsidiary of the second defendant and guarantors, HTV Group plc, seeking the striking out of the plaintiff's statement of claim alleging breach of contract of publishing from any assignee dated March 5, 1991, and the plea, dated March 5, 1991, which required the first defendant to use all reasonable endeavours to obtain from any further assignee a

right of first negotiation for the plaintiff, Rae Lambert.

The judge had directed that Mr Lambert's statement of claim be struck out as disclosing no reasonable cause of action, and that, in particular, clause 9 of the agreement purported to confer a right which was unenforceable in law.

Mr Alastair Wilson, QC and Miss Barbara Hewson for the plaintiff; Mr Richard Price, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the plaintiff, formerly an illustrator and graphics designer employed by the first defendant, was the owner of the copyright relating to cartoon characters called The Furlings.

By a series of agreements he had, in effect, granted the first defendant an exclusive licence to exploit the work and assigned all existing and future copyrights to them.

An assignment dated March 5, 1991 contained, in clause 9, the undertaking that the defendant would use all reasonable endeavours to obtain for the plaintiff first rights of negotiation for book publishing from any assignee which, it was hoped, would enable the plaintiff to enter the lucrative American and European publishing market.

In the event HTV sold the rights

on to a film company in the United States, which subsequently made a film, and the publishing rights to another company there, the contracts being governed by Californian law but did not obtain the rights of first negotiation for the plaintiff.

In due course disputes arose over royalties unaccounted for and the plaintiff started proceedings to enforce the accounting obligations in the agreements; the claim brought under clause 9 was something of an afterthought. At the hearing before Mr Justice Chadwick the defendants contended that the clause was invalid because it was impossible to ascertain what HTV's obligations were under it and therefore it could not have contractual effect; breach of it could not affect the contract, nor could the damage be determined.

The judge, applying *Walford v Miles* (1992) 2 AC 128, struck out the claim on the ground that English law would not recognise or enforce a "right to negotiate", although he conceded that a "lock-out" agreement, if restricted in time, might be enforceable.

The plaintiff submitted that a right of first negotiation contained a lock-out element and in any event was capable of conferring a benefit on the plaintiff even if it were unenforceable by virtue of the

decision in *Williams v Reffey* (1991) 1 QB 11.

The defendants contended that that case, and the decision of the House of Lords in *Stummel (G) & Nephew Ltd v Ouston* (1910) 1 AC 251, were authority for the proposition that a bare right to negotiate was not enforceable.

However, there was all the difference in the world between the claim itself and a contractual obligation to use all reasonable endeavours. The latter made it quite clear what a contracting party was obliged to do.

Whether or not the rights to first negotiation turned out to be enforceable depended on the ultimate negotiation but there was sufficient certainty in the clause itself for it not to have been struck out. Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed and the passages in the statement of claim would be restored.

Sir Patrick Russell agreed. Solicitors: Anthony W. Jeremy & Co, Cardiff; Theodore Goddard.

**Correction**

In *R v Commissioners of Customs and Excise: Ex parte Mortimer and Another* (The Times March 12) the solicitors for the applicants were Dennis Brown & Co, Colchester.

# Drugs defaulter imprisoned while on parole

**Regina v City of London Justices, Ex parte Chapman**

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Gage

Judgment March 5

A person released from prison on parole was not liable to serve a term of custody for an offence for the purposes of section 6(2)(b) of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 and therefore could not be imprisoned for non-payment of a confiscation order.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in refusing Gary Chapman's application for judicial review of the order of the City of London Justices that he serve three years and 321 days for non-payment of a confiscation order.

On June 21, 1993, the applicant was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Laughton, QC) to a prison term of eight years and ordered to pay a compensation order in the sum of £954,000. On July 28, 1997, following his release on licence, the City of London

Justices found that, on the true construction of the sentence of the court, the applicant had until his release from prison to pay the sum due under the confiscation order.

As he was then in default, the justices ordered that a warrant of commitment be issued against him to serve a default sentence.

The applicant applied for judicial review on two grounds:

First, that the confiscation order gave him the whole of the eight-year sentence to pay the order and second, that as a person on licence he was "liable to serve a term of custody" accordingly, the warrant of commitment could not be issued until the expiration of the licence period.

Section 6 of the 1986 Act provides: "(2) Where - (a) a warrant of commitment is issued for a default in payment of an amount ordered to be paid under section 2 of this Act in respect of an offence or offences, and (b) at the time the warrant is issued, the defendant is

liable to serve a term of custody in respect of the offence or offences, the term of imprisonment - to be served in default shall not begin to run until after the term mentioned in paragraph (b) above."

Mr Timothy Sewell for the applicant; Mr Kennedy Talbot for the Customs and Excise as interested party.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said that he agreed with the justices' construction of the confiscation order.

The trial judge gave the applicant until his physical release from custody to pay the confiscation order and not the full time of the eight-year sentence.

On the second ground, Mr Sewell submitted that the applicant could be returned to custody on revocation of the licence and was therefore still liable to serve a term of custody. Had it been intended to exclude release on licence from the provisions of section 6(2) of the 1986

Act, Parliament would have included it in the exceptions contained in section 6(3).

His Lordship said that the scheme of the 1986 Act was to make a sentence in default consecutive. It would be curious if those released on licence could not be subject to a warrant of commitment until the licence period had expired.

Such a result would be undesirable and the terms of section 6(2) were not such as to indicate that was the case. Accordingly, the phrase "liable to serve a term of custody" was to be construed as currently liable and not liable on the occurrence of a future event.

His Lordship stated that judges who make confiscation orders should set a specific date by which the sum had to be paid in order to avoid uncertainty.

Lord Justice Pill delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Saunders & Cox Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

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RACING: O'BRIEN CAN UNDERLINE TALL REPUTATION BY CAPTURING HURDLERS' CROWN

Istabraq to confirm champion promise

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

AIDAN O'BRIEN can underline his reputation as an outstanding trainer under both codes by sending out Istabraq to gain a famous...

much quicker and stronger one. Although no winner of the Royal & Sun Alliance Hurdle has gone on to capture the Champion Hurdle...

Unbeaten in nine starts after his hurdling debut, the former John Gosden-trained Sadler's Wells gelding has gone from strength to strength...

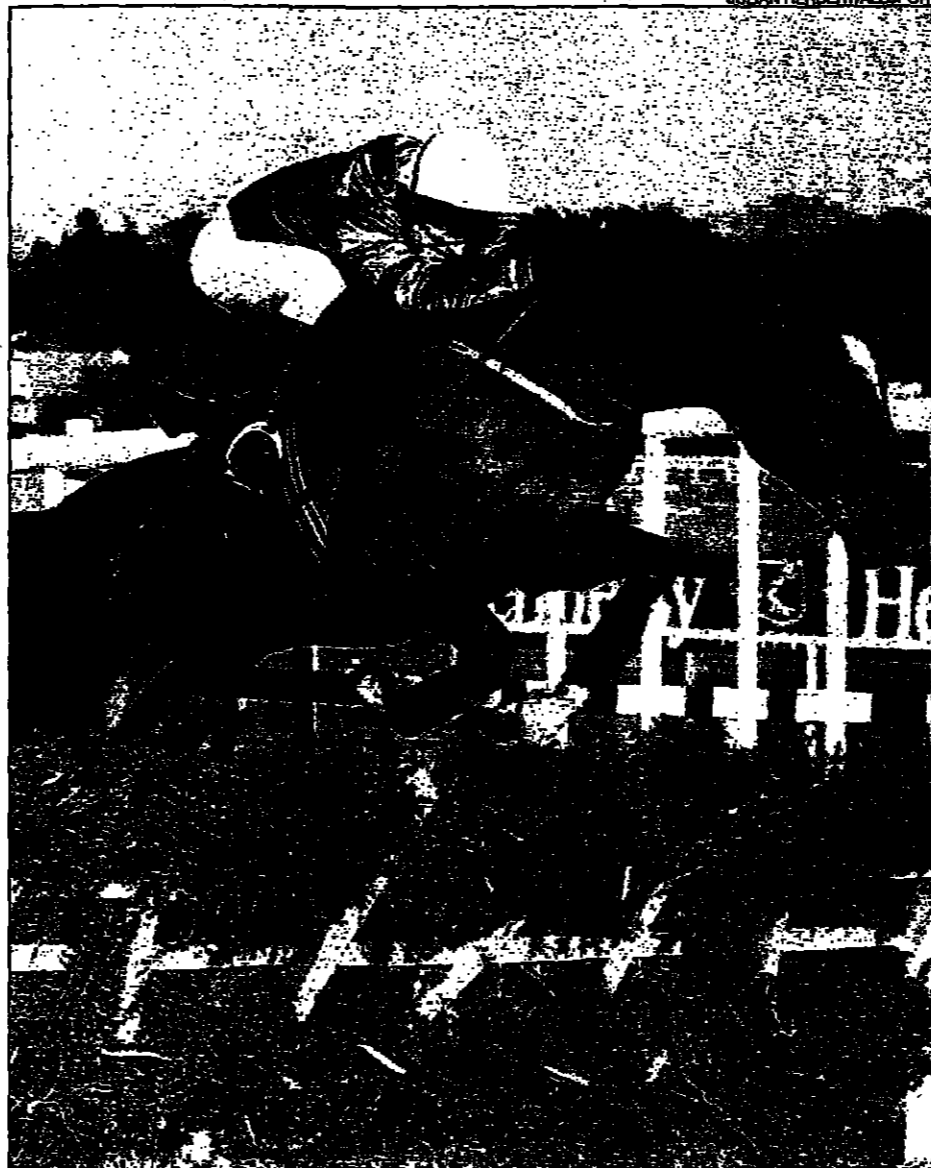
At the start of this season O'Brien mapped out a campaign for last season's Royal & Sun Alliance Hurdle winner which involved four races leading up to the Cheltenham Festival...

It has only been in the last few weeks, since gaining a workmanlike victory in the Irish Champion Hurdle, that the powerful six-year-old has been in serious training...

ISTABRAQ'S credentials are rock solid and, ironically, the biggest threat could be



is also represented by Grimes, would provide O'Brien with another famous success - and offer a poignant reminder of the height he has reached...



Istabraq is Ireland's main hope to lift the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham today

Baronet can give peerless display on testing track

2.00: The Irish have won the Festival opener three times in the past seven years and it will be a surprise if they do not add to that tally today. His Song is likely to be sent off a short-priced favourite after finishing just 1 1/2 lengths behind Istabraq in the Irish Champion Hurdle...

3.15: When Even Flow beat the progressive Monzaie Fortie at Haydock 17 days ago, Terry Casey was adamant his improving nine-year-old would be seen to even better effect when stepped up to three miles. This handicap is invariably won by a progressive chaser...

3.55: The Nipper, representing the Dorans Pride yard of Michael Hourigan, may pose the biggest threat. The seven-year-old showed useful under top weight around Cheltenham in the autumn, when a good third over an extended 2 1/2 miles. A winner since then over three miles, he is fairly handicapped and also reported to be in top form. Young Hustler has been well below form so far this season, but with his trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies, in cracking form he cannot be ruled out.

4.30: Time For A Run, in form and just tipped in this race a year ago, should give a good account and looks well in at the weights with Papillon, judged on his victory in the Paddy Power Chase at Leopardstown in December. However, he can be a moody character and at his likely cramped odds, Baronet gets the nod. Third in the Scottish National as a novice, he has taken time to find his form this season, but has been Djedda in a fact run race at Sandown last time and will appreciate this demanding task.

5.05: Unmistakable Bower, dogged by broken blood vessels last season, has come good this term, winning three novice hurdles without coming off the bit. He may be thrown in at the weights, but will surely face a tougher battle here and that may force his old problems to resurface. The two alternatives are Metastasis, a good second to Royale Angela over an inadequate trip last time, and the progressive Tompetoto. The form of his latest victory at Ascot has worked out well and further improvement is likely.

BIG RACE LINE-UP

Table listing race details for the 3.15 Smurfit Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy, including race number, time, name, age, sex, color, and jockey.

FORM GUIDE TO THE 18 CONTENDERS

Table providing form guides for 18 contenders in the 3.15 race, including names like Bellator, Grimes, Pridwell, Shooting Light, Red Blazer, I'm Supposin, Relkeel, Sanmartino, Shadow Leader, Marello, Mistinguett, and Kerawi.

CHELTEMHAM

Table listing race details for the 2.00 ZARALASKA (nap), 2.35 Lake Kariba, and 3.15 I'm Supposin.

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.30 PAPILLON.

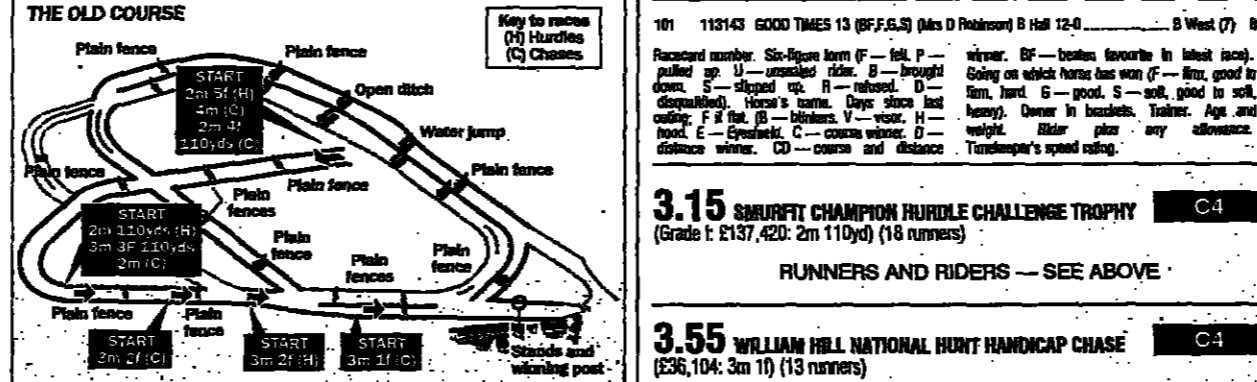
GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 CITROEN SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE

Table listing race details for the 2.00 Citroen Supreme Novices Hurdle, including race number, time, name, age, sex, color, and jockey.

1997: MAKE A STAND 6-12-0 A.P. McCoy (7-1) M.P. 17 m

GUIDE TO CHELTEMHAM THE OLD COURSE



2.35 GUINNESS ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY CHASE

Table listing race details for the 2.35 Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase, including race number, time, name, age, sex, color, and jockey.

1997: O'NEILL LEADER 6-11-0 D. O'Brien (5-1) D. O'Brien 18 m

FORM FOCUS

Numbering Horse 9441 4th of 8 in impressive Orms in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m, good to soft). Archer's Fortune beat Donoghue's Star (evens) in 3-runner novice hurdle grade 2 at Sandown (2m, good to soft). Archer's Fortune beat Donoghue's Star (evens) in 3-runner novice hurdle grade 2 at Sandown (2m, good to soft).

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table listing course specialists, including trainers, horses, and jockeys.

FORM FOCUS

Swadlow (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft).

FORM FOCUS

Swadlow (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft).

5.05 UNICORN HONES GOLD CUP HANDICAP HURDLE

Table listing race details for the 5.05 Unicorn Hones Gold Cup Handicap Hurdle, including race number, time, name, age, sex, color, and jockey.

1997: PHARMANER 6-12-0 R. Thornton (14-1) D. O'Brien 24 m

4.30 FULFLE MALWYN KIM MUR CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE

Table listing race details for the 4.30 Fulfle Malwyn Kim Mur Challenge Cup Handicap Chase, including race number, time, name, age, sex, color, and jockey.

1997: NINE LUCKIER 6-11-0 R. Thornton (7-2) D. O'Brien 11 m

FORM FOCUS

Swadlow (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft).

FORM FOCUS

Swadlow (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft). Istabraq (2m, 4 1/2 furlongs, good to soft).

Advertisement for RACELINE First for Cheltenham, featuring contact information and race details.









RUGBY UNION: SCOTLAND CALL UP NORTHAMPTON FORWARD WHILE ENGLAND EXTEND YOUTH POLICY

# Pountney extends boundaries

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE England's management pushed back selection of their team to play Scotland in the Five Nations Championship on Sunday, after a worrying sequence of injuries over the weekend, the Scots took the opportunity yesterday to extend their borders. Their changes to the squad that did duty against Wales embraced Tony Pountney, the Northampton flanker who qualifies through his Channel Islands heritage.

"Budge" Pountney, 24, was born in Southampton and initially played his rugby with Winchester but, as football has already discovered, players whose families come from the Channel Islands — in Pountney's case his grandmother is from Jersey — have an option on any of the five nations. Pountney made the decision two years ago, after captaining England's under-21 side, and his speculation may pay dividends.

He may not displace Andy Roxburgh when the starting XV is named tomorrow but, given Scotland's traditional preference for a specialist open-side flanker, Pountney has a distinct prospect of an international debut.

Pountney takes the place in Scotland's squad of Smith, who is likely to revert to the A team, while the other change sees the demotion of Rowen Shepherd from full back. Shepherd won his seventeenth cap as a replacement in the defeat by Wales but Derrick Lee has covered from severe bruising to his shin and will resume with Hugh Gilmore. The Heriot's EP full back, promoted over Shepherd.

Pountney said: "My pedigree blood-wise is obviously English but rugby-wise I consider myself 100 per cent Scottish. That stems back to my decision two years ago to opt for Scotland. I liked the Scottish style of play — it suited me."

England postponed naming their side today because of injuries to David Rees and



Tony Underwood and concern over Kyran Bracken. Rees damaged a groin in training with Sale last week while Underwood twisted his knee during Newcastle's defeat by Richmond.

Both wings will see the England medical staff today, while Bracken also requires an assessment of his shoulder. The Saracens scrum half has missed his club's past two games. The team management will also need reassurance that Neil Back has recovered from the flu that kept him out of the weekend game with Bath.

Illness is also causing problems for Ireland, who have already been forced to change their full back for the game with Wales at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. Conor O'Shea withdrew after suffering a stress fracture to his cheek-bone during London Irish's win over Wasps on Sunday and his place will be taken by Claran Clarke, the Terenure College full back.

Keith Wood, the Ireland captain, has been struggling with flu and the management have added Allen Clarke, the Northampton hooker, to the squad.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: Backs: H. Gilmore (Heriot's), D. Lee (London Scottish), S. Longstaff (Dundee HFP), A. Stanger (Hawick), C. Murray (Edinburgh), A. Tait (Newcastle), G. Toward (Northampton), C. Chalmers (Melrose), G. Armstrong (Newcastle), A. Noor (Glasgow Forthwells), D. Wilson (Edinburgh), M. Stewart (Northampton), G. Buchanan (Glasgow), G. Ellis (Glasgow), D. Groom (Newcastle), S. Gilman (Newcastle), G. West (Newcastle), E. Parnes (Bath), A. Pountney (Northampton), A. Rodriguez (Wales), R. Wainwright (Dundee HFP).



Wilkinson, the 18-year-old understudy to Andrew at Newcastle, is likely to be in the squad to face Scotland on Sunday

# Wilkinson sidesteps age barrier

David Hands on the teenage fly half who is on the verge of selection for England

CLIVE Woodward declared his hand when he was appointed coach to England last autumn: age was not a factor in selection, quality was. He instantly backed his own words by choosing two 20-year-olds, Matt Perry and Andrew Long, for the international against Australia in November, but now stands on the verge of including Jonathan Wilkinson — a tender 18 — in his squad to play against Scotland at Murrayfield on Sunday.

Though Woodward has been forced by injuries to delay naming his starting XV until tomorrow, Wilkinson is almost certain to make the final 22: he is one of only two specialist fly halves in the squad, alongside Paul Grayson, and the only other player with experience in the No 10 shirt is Perry, though he has not played there much since leaving school.

"I think Jonny is ready to

play for England now," Woodward said. "I am not interested in the word pressure. Ability overcomes that. He will certainly be in the match squad, when we reduce it from 27 on Wednesday, and I might send him out for the kick-off. I believe that it is better to start with a player, with the option of bringing him off if necessary, rather than wonder exactly when to put him on, because the match position becomes an outside influence on the coach's decision."

If it is a daunting prospect for Wilkinson, he is not letting it show. Composure is a primary quality for a fly half and the young man from Farnham seems to possess it by the ton; maybe it is one of the virtues he has learnt from Rob Andrew at Newcastle, along with patience. Andrew,

director of rugby at Kingston Park and the holder of 70 England caps at fly half, has no intention of rushing him.

"Jonny is a huge talent who has played very little senior rugby," Andrew, choosing his words with care, said. "He is eight months out of school. The under-21 side is probably where he sits in terms of present development. He has been pushed forward very quickly because of injuries and a lack of No 10s playing in the Premiership but we believe we are quite capable of looking after a very talented young player."

Wilkinson, who was coached by Steve Bates — now coach to Newcastle — when they were pupil and master at Lord Wandsworth School, has started one game for Newcastle this season, the cup meeting with Exeter, and has

made five cameo appearances as a replacement. The latest of those came in the defeat by Richmond on Saturday, at centre, where his quick hands were evident.

"It's not a case of being mistreated or ignored," Wilkinson said. "I'm being treated very well. I'm learning a hell of a lot and it must be doing my career some good. There are no better people to speak to than some of the guys at Newcastle — I need them around to help me out."

"It's important to keep your feet on the ground. It's great to know people are watching and approving, impressed by what they see. It's what drives you forward." It is already too late for Wilkinson to become England's youngest cap: that distinction fell to Henri Laird in 1927, when he was picked against Wales — at fly half — at 18 years, 134 days. Were Wilkinson to play, he would be 64 days short of his 19th birthday and the prospect is looming.

# First student final mirrors club example

David Hands sets the scene for a new European occasion in Cardiff tonight

TWO years ago, the inaugural season of the Heineken Cup, Toulouse and Cardiff contested the first European club championship at Wales's National Stadium, with the French emerging the victors. Today their student representatives have a similar opportunity in the final of The Times Student European Rugby Championship, which brings together Paul Sabatier University, from Toulouse, and the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, on the Cardiff club ground.

It is a remarkable coincidence that, from 16 starters, institutions from those cities should mirror the senior competition that has taken root within the rugby community in so short a time. Clearly, European competition adds a new dimension to student rugby, one that will allow it not only to survive in the professional era but to prosper.

It is several years since a handful of leading universities in Britain contemplated broadening their horizons beyond the traditional confines of the university match between Oxford and Cambridge, the Universities Athletic Union competition (now the British Universities Sports Association championships) and the healthy but domestic championships in Ireland and Scotland.

The institution of a student World Cup — held by France after their victory over South Africa two years ago — demonstrated what could be achieved and this season, enthusiastic crowds have been drawn to the novelty of a Loughborough team playing in Toulouse, of University College Dublin travelling to Rome and of Oxford taking their dark-blue credentials to Cork.

It is a healthy situation, too, when international teams can include university students who bring with them an intelligence and a liberalism that the highest level of the game still needs.

The latest of such players is Xavier Garbajosa, who won his first cap for France against Ireland earlier this month and has been named on the wing for Paul Sabatier University this evening. Garbajosa, like many of his student colleagues, plays club rugby regularly, in his case for Toulouse (scrum half), Christophe Laurent (hooker) and Jean-Marie Bisaro (flanker) are also players. David Darricarrere, the fly half who has dominated games in The Times tournament, plays at Mont-de-Marsan and Sebastian Roque, the Colomiers centre, has been a regular for France A this season.

But the Welsh university also benefits from regular competition in the first division of the Welsh League. It is not an ideal situation, since by necessity they are young players opposing the more experienced first-class clubs and it has set them somewhat apart from their student peers. However, it should ensure that the crowd today — admission is free — sees a competitive final.

Last week did not go down in UWIC annals as one of the better periods in their history. They lost in the semi-finals of the BUSA tournament to Swansea, whom they had beaten in the semi-finals of the European competition, and on Saturday went down to Bonnymaen, leaving them precariously perched above Maesteg and Pontypool at the bottom of the first division. But, as Bath have found, a win in Europe does wonders for morale.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE, CARDIFF (from): P. Davies, J. Williams, R. Shoney, P. Jones, P. Roberts, A. Wagstaff, G. Wall, G. Vales, G. Cooney, G. Bowen, M. Bolton, C. Morgan, M. O'Kelly, G. Williams, S. Jones, R. Edwards, C. Burrows, G. Evans, A. Davies, S. Gardner, N. Budgett, M. Cook, G. Samuel. PAUL SABATIER UNIVERSITY, TOULOUSE (from): S. Long, X. Garbajosa, S. Roque, V. Mary, J. Mir, N. Roussel, G. Begari, D. Darricarrere, J. Tizias, A. Abou, A. Archa, J.-P. Bryson, C. Laurent, Y. Lacroix, J. Joanny, N. Spanghero, L. Malakle, A. Lacrampe, J.-M. Beano, A. Smet, J.-V. Marrec. Reference: A. Speedy (England).

# Vandenbroucke recaptures early promise

## Belgian states tour case

By JEREMY WHITTLE

FRANK Vandenbroucke's peerless victory in the Paris-Nice stage race confirmed the growing belief that the 23-year-old Belgian will prove the strongest challenger to Jan Ullrich when the German defends his Tour de France title this July.

While Ullrich's path to success in the Tour last summer seemed straightforward enough, Vandenbroucke, by contrast, has followed a far more erratic and troubled route to the top.

The well-worn and often ill-fated tag of being the "next Eddy Merckx" has been applied to many an aspiring Belgian since the legendary rider retired 20 years ago, but on this assured performance, Vandenbroucke appears to be close to justifying it.

He dominated the time-trial and mountain stages of the Paris-Nice and comfortably repelled attacks from rivals on the few occasions that they threatened his authority.

With his first important stage race success, Vandenbroucke joined an elite club of only seven riders, including Merckx in 1971, who have dominated the Paris-Nice race from start to finish.

But it has taken a while for Vandenbroucke's undoubted talent to come to fruition. His family name has long been associated with cycling and, when he first turned professional in 1994, it was with the inconsistent Lotto team managed by his tempestuous uncle, Jean-Luc.

He was an immediate success and, at only 20, stirred Belgian passions with a victory in the toughest stage of the Tour of the Mediterranean before becoming a national hero with victory in the Paris-Brussels classic race.

By the time he was 21 it was Vandenbroucke, rather than Ullrich, who was hailed as the sport's new superstar, but injuries quickly began to go awry for him. First came a tier feud with his uncle. Then, after moving to a new Belgian sponsor, injuries and a pursuit for caring more about his hairstyle than about his form saw him struggle



Vandenbroucke is speeding back to the front of the pack

through 1996, a season that had begun brightly enough with overall victory in the Tour of the Mediterranean.

He struggled for the next year, after surgery to correct a problem caused by a childhood car accident that left him with one leg longer than the other.

Yet he battled through the Tour de France last year, ostensibly for experience, to finish fifth overall and twice came close to stage victories, proving that he could cope with the physical and psychological demands of cycling's most testing event.

Udo Boltz, a team-mate and close friend of Ullrich, is well qualified to judge Vandenbroucke's qualities. "He is a real fighter," Boltz said. "He is suited to almost every type of race and has the confidence of a real champion. If he gets his preparation right before the Tour de France, he'll definitely be a challenger."

# RUGBY LEAGUE

## Wigan bar road to Wembley

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

APART from ballooning non-stop around the world, Richard Branson wants to lead out a team at Wembley. It is an ambition no longer about hot air, but the London Broncos chairman and his side could not have wished for more testing semi-final opponents in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup than the ominously in-form Wigan Warriors.

While Sheffield Eagles and Salford Reds were rubbing their hands at meeting one another and not having to face Wigan, London, who have struggled through to the last four for the first time, were handed the short straw in the draw last night. Both ties, to be played over the weekend of March 28 and 29, will be at neutral northern venues after the Rugby Football League rejected the idea of one of the games being staged in the south.

Sheffield are also new to the semi-final stage, at which Salford, who last reached the final in 1969, were beaten by St Helens last year. Keith Senior, whose two late tries earned Sheffield their quarter-final passage at Castleford Tigers, is almost certain to miss the match.

Film of a left hook by the centre, which the match officials missed but television did not as Barrie-Jon Mather was floored, was viewed yesterday by the Rugby Football League executive, who have summoned Senior to the disciplinary committee on Thursday, when he can expect to be banned.

Salford have approached David Tueti, the Bristol and Tonga rugby union wing, who watched the side's defeat of Hull Sharks on Sunday, although it is more likely that the last place on Salford's overseas register will go to Phil Bergman.

Bergman played for Paris Saint-Germain last season and was initially refused work permit clearance, but who now qualifies after he led a New Zealand residents side to victory in the Oceania Nines last week.

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CHANGING TIMES







RACING 47

Dunwoody gives an insight into his Cheltenham rides

SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 17 1998

CYCLING 49

Belgian sets course for the grand tour



Merson given chance to provide creativity for England in Berne

Hoddle offers succour to Gascoigne

By OLIVER HOLT

THE religious cadences that sometimes slip into the pronouncements of Glenn Hoddle turned the England squad announcement yesterday for the forthcoming international against Switzerland into a celebration of lost sheep returning to the path of righteousness.

There may have been no place either in the full or under-21 squad for that notorious Chris Sutton, but there was a parade of sinners saved and another, dose of absolution for Paul Gascoigne.

Some are bound to see Gascoigne's omission from the party to play the Swiss in Berne next Wednesday as another beginning of another end. The troubled Rangers midfielder player has fallen victim to a spate of injuries that have severely restricted his appearances for his club and persuaded the Scottish champions that the time may be right to sell him.

Hoddle insisted that Gascoigne had only to regain his fitness to earn an automatic recall to the England set-up, but admitted that he was worried about the prolonged injuries affecting him, David

Seaman and Ian Wright. Gascoigne's mental fragility, though, makes him everyone's primary concern.

"First things first," Hoddle said. "The boy has got to get himself fit. He has got to be playing football between now and the end of the season. He has not got to rush back into it. That is how he was portraying the fact that he was desperate to get fit."

"Last year, I said he needed some time without injury to get himself back to his best."

Gregory's goal ..... 48  
Wenger on guard ..... 48  
Newcastle slump ..... 48

That happened and he played week in and week out. But now he has had a few niggling things that have dragged him down a bit. He has got to make sure that he does not pick up another major injury between now and the end of the season."

His presence is important to the team, as his absence against Chile last month showed, but as Gascoigne continues the grim fight against the dying of his light

and tries to stave off the personal controversies that are assailing him again, Hoddle held out two models of reformation to him yesterday.

Paul Merson is one of the few players capable of reprising much of the creative work that England rely on so heavily from Gascoigne. Still recovering from his descent into alcoholism, drug addiction and gambling, Merson has become a paragon of clean-living and footballing excellence in the process.

He last started a game for England against Greece in May 1994, but he has impressed Hoddle with his performances for Middlesbrough this season. The fact that he has been released from his club's match against Norwich City on Sunday suggests he has not been drafted in on a mere watching brief.

Despite a recall for Martin Keown and a place for Rio Ferdinand, the other inclusion to attract interest yesterday was Ray Parlour. If his rehabilitation has not been quite as spectacular as Merson's, it is only because he did not start from such a low point. As Hoddle discussed their merits, he stressed the importance of a healthy mind over a healthy body.

"What Paul Merson has done is an amazing story," Hoddle said. "It gives you a lot of heart. He has taken everything that was said to him on board and now he is getting some just rewards. He is getting his just rewards. Sometimes, you have to go to the bottom before you can rise above all the problems you have had."

"Maybe Ray Parlour learnt off Paul before it happened to him. He was almost in the same place but now it looks as though he has got his act together. He has changed his habits. He has got an extra yard of pace. He drew the line just in time whereas others maybe would have strayed over it. He has looked at himself and realised what he really needs to be a profession-



Hoddle gave Gascoigne hope for the future yesterday but left him out of his latest squad.

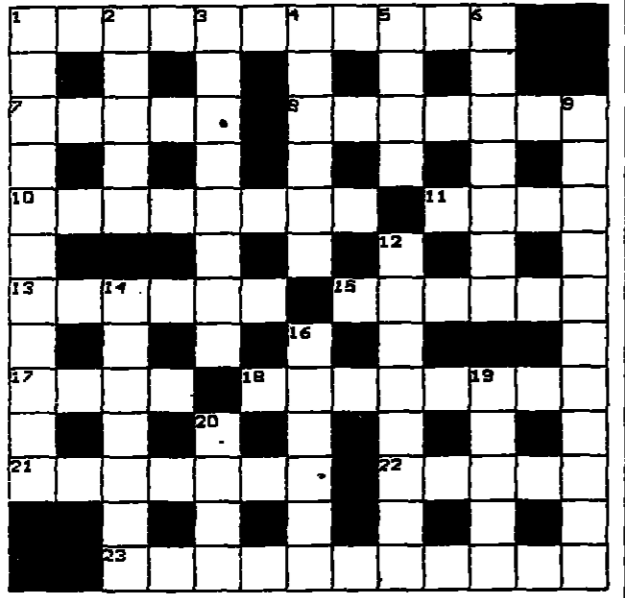
FULL SQUAD



Merson: creative work

- N Mearns ..... Leeds United
P Flanagan ..... Blackburn Rovers
K Pressman ..... Sheffield Wednesday
G Morrison ..... Manchester United
D Neville ..... Manchester United
G Le Tissier ..... Chelsea
A Lacey ..... Sheffield Wednesday
A Adams ..... Arsenal
G Southgate ..... Aston Villa
P Campbell ..... Tottenham Hotspur
M Keown ..... Arsenal
N Butt ..... West Ham United
P Ince ..... Liverpool
D Beardsley ..... Manchester United
D Bellamy ..... Newcastle United
R Phillips ..... Arsenal
R Liles ..... Newcastle United
P Scholes ..... Manchester United
P Merson ..... Middlesbrough
S Sheetingham ..... Manchester United
A Mackenzie ..... Newcastle United
M Owen ..... Liverpool
D Duff ..... Coventry City
A Cole ..... Manchester United

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1355

- ACROSS: 1 Bus-to-city-centre scheme (4,3,4)
7 Examination bed (5)
8 Swagging courage (7)
10 Wave up and down (8)
11 Sound of geese, unhappy audience (4)
13 Symbolic object (6)
15 Lambert -, royal impostor; type of cake (6)
17 Wharf (4)
18 Imagines, theories (3)
21 A wearing away (7)
22 Train of followers (5)
23 Undergo conversion (3,3,5)
DOWN: 1 Vividly pretty (eg view) (11)
2 Circular (5)
3 Sully Trojan War hero (8)
4 Formal discussion (6)
5 Terrible czar (4)
6 Dishonest avoidance (7)
9 Becoming out of date (11)
12 Getting rid of; right to use (8)
14 Signal fires; Brecon has some (7)
16 Snake (thirst) (6)
19 Child's toy; be hanged (5)
20 Rub clean (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1354
ACROSS: 1 Venacity 5 Alps 9 Liver 10 Relapse
11 Suggest 12 Tudip 13 Spacelish 18 Offer 20 Affront
22 Partial 23 Gleam 24 Reef 25 Assembly
DOWN: 1 Valise 2 Ravages 3 Curve 4 Turn the tables
6 Lapel 7 Sleepy 8 Clutch 14 Adroit 15 Proverb
16 Cooper 17 Singsy 19 Forge 21 Fugue

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Freak rains force England into a fight to save series

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

TRUE to the vagaries of a series in which scarcely a day has been profitable, several hours of steady rain condemned the Barbados Test to stalemate yesterday. England, who might easily be heading for Antigua this morning with a 3-1 lead, instead need to win the final Test, starting on Friday, to avoid defeat.

Michael Atherton's abiding dream of a series win in the Caribbean was denied in the cruelest fashion and any result other than victory next week will probably see him stand down as captain. If he does, he will take with him the unsatisfying conundrum of what might have been. England needed to bowl West Indies out in a day to win a game they had dominated for long periods but they had proved more than once that they were capable of that. Early wickets, so the theory went, would have exposed the opposition's frailty under pressure. To the great regret of the majority in this ground, the theory could not be put to the test.

There was no play before lunch and although England dismissed both West Indian openers in an afternoon session restricted to 18.3 overs, the return of a rain more reminiscent of London in November, punctured what hope remained and the match was abandoned before 4pm. On an island where drought conditions prevail, water rationing is in force and a weekend weather forecast predicted it would be dry for another three months, this

knowledge of the sunset hour, allied to the sight of more looming rainclouds, made it obvious they would receive many fewer.

To their credit, they approached the task with gusto and for a time the force was with them. On Sunday evening, as Wallace and Lambert laid about them, England had begun to despair of a wicket; now, they looked capable of taking one almost every ball. Tuftnell, beginning a loopy spell from the pavilion end and surprised Lambert with bounce and turn in his first over. He survived that trial, but not the next. Determined not to be restrained, Lambert topped a pull against Fraser and Headley, running back from mid-on, took a catch perhaps five times as difficult as the one he had dropped to retrieve Wallace the previous evening.

The roar from the crowd was an explosion of pent-up frustration; also, proof that there were perhaps four Britons to every one local. Their team responded and Fraser, unlagging despite a niggling knee problem, almost struck again immediately. Wallace edging inches short of Hussain at third slip.

After a shower cost England precious minutes, Tuftnell almost bowled Brian Lara with a ball that pitched in the rough and shot along the ground; but Wallace, imperturbable, reached his first Test half-century with an on-driven six into the Pickwick Pavilion. Cardick, summoned to replace Fraser, removed him in his first over, indisputably leg-before. Another roar, another arousal of hope. But there were to be no more.

overcoming it were not helped by a primitive lack of drying equipment.

Recently, with something of a fanfare, the West Indies Cricket Board purchased a motorised waterhog for just such occasions and announced that it would be transported between venues. Yesterday, when the need was great, it was nowhere to be seen. It had, apparently, arrived in Barbados, then simply gone missing.

The groundstaff, swathed in yellow oilskins, were reduced to some pedantic mopping up with handrollers, a process that was regularly interrupted by resumptions of rain. Eventually, lunch was taken before play began. The availability of an extra hour theoretically left England 71 overs to bowl but a



Rain leaves Atherton to ponder what might have been

Lee decides to depart Maine Road

By DAVID MADDOCK

FRANCIS LEE yesterday resigned his position as chairman of Manchester City. The man who took charge at Maine Road four years ago did not attend a hastily arranged press conference at the club, but instead conveyed his message through David Bernstein, the vice-chairman.

"I have handed to the board my resignation as chairman of Manchester City," Lee's statement read. "I have taken this decision because my family life, my personal life and my business life have been disrupted to such an extent over the past few months that it has been impossible to carry on."

"I tried very hard at Maine Road to create a situation where everyone would be proud, pleased and privileged to be associated with Manchester City. Unfortunately, even though there were many improvements off the pitch, a chairman is judged by results on the pitch."

Bernstein will move up to the role of chairman in the short term, but it is clear that the power base at the club has shifted, and it was this that forced Lee to tender his resignation.

Lee had only a 12 per cent stake in the club, and was involved in disputes with John Wardle and David Makin of JD Sports, who between them own 19 per cent of Manchester City, and also with Stephen Boler, who controls a 30 per cent share in the club.

In the end, his position was undermined to such an extent - with Makin very publicly pleading for the chairman to go - that he became a lame-duck chairman, merely implementing policy decided by the other shareholders.

That was enough to stop Lee facing the ignominy of a vote of no confidence, but he is a proud man with a good track record in business, and since Christmas had come to realise that his position was becoming untenable.

His departure does not, however, put an end to the internal strife that has ripped the club apart since Lee assumed control, and that pushed City into the bottom three of the Nationwide League first division. As Bernstein suggested yesterday, a search is very much underway to find a new, wealthy backer for the club.

Wardle has now accepted a

place on the board alongside Dennis Tueart - his nominee on the board when Lee was chairman - and it is clear that he and Makin will now dictate the direction of the club.

But Makin has frequently made it clear that he will not put any further money into Manchester City, and recently made a plea for someone with serious money to buy into the club. That plea was reiterated yesterday by Bernstein.

"If we are to progress, we must concentrate on present realities, and not our former glories," Bernstein said. "For far too long, this club has been under-capitalised and over-borrowed. Our priority is to bring in sufficient funds which will provide much-needed stability, and allow us to go forward and find the success this club demands."

Lee will retain his shareholding in the short



Lee stepping down

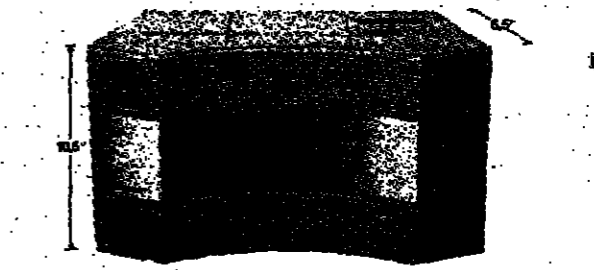
term, despite resigning his position on the board as well as the chairmanship. It is likely that he will retain his stake, until a new owner is found in the summer.

Boler, the leading shareholder, is understood to be open to offers for his stake, and, when he sells, that will trigger a full-blown takeover bid - at which point Lee is also likely to sell.

This is, then, merely the latest chapter in the seemingly never-ending Manchester City saga, rather than the conclusion to an increasingly farcical story. Lee's departure, though, does conclude a sorry chapter, and will put an end to the rumours of boardroom meddling in team matters that have undermined the club so disastrously. However, it will take a very wealthy backer to bring back the glory years.

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